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Senator Chuck Hagel opens FAS speaker series

By VICKY PLESTIS
Staff Writer

Chuck Hagel, former Republican Senator from Nebraska, spoke at the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) yesterday evening. Hagel was the first speaker in this year's series, the theme of which was global citizenship. Discussing a wide variety of international events, from the civic unrest in Egypt

to the financial crisis, Hagel emphasized the important role of the individual in shaping our increasingly globalized world.

Hagel's presentation was largely in keeping with the FAS theme of global citizenship. "[The presentation discussed] how individuals will react to the responsibilities of a more intertwined community," FAS Executive Director

Caroline Berger stated.

Hagel started off by discussing how quickly the world is changing. "We are living in a world that is essentially redefining itself. We are rebuilding a world order."

This new world for Hagel is largely characterized by the diminishing role of government in the national and international spheres and the consequent importance of NGOs, small organizations and individuals. Hagel,

who beyond his two terms as a senator is among other things co-chairman of the President's Advisory Board, a professor of foreign policy at Georgetown University and author of the book *America: Our Next Chapter*, discussed in particular the individual's ability to create change.

"It is the human being that changes the world. Institutions don't change the world; they

SEE FAS, PAGE A8



FILE PHOTO
The new lacrosse building is scheduled to finish construction in early 2012.

New lacrosse building announced

By STUART JOHNSON
Staff Writer

At a press conference on Tuesday, Hopkins announced plans to build a new facility to house the men's and women's lacrosse programs.

The Cordish Lacrosse Center, named after lead donor David Cordish ('60), will be a \$10 million, 14,000-square foot building that will sit at the south end of Homewood field, where both lacrosse teams play their games.

The structure will feature locker rooms for the men's and women's teams, office space for both coaching staffs, an auditorium, a training room, an academic center and a conference room. There will also be an outdoor patio on the second floor of the facility overlooking the field, where fans and alumni can watch games.

The University will officially break ground on the Cordish Lacrosse Center in June and hopes to finish the project in the opening months of 2012.

"At Johns Hopkins, we take special pride in our unique 128-year tradition of excellence in lacrosse," Hopkins President Ronald J. Daniels said. "This new center builds on that tradition and supports the Blue Jays in their continued pursuit of excellence."

Daniels emphasized that the Hopkins's lacrosse program couldn't stand on tradition alone and that "it was time to renew the facilities." Currently, the Newton H. White Athletic

SEE LACROSSE, PAGE B10

Not your average meal



Celebrity chef Kim O'Donnel demonstrated for students how to cook a delicious and healthy meat-less meal at Nolan's this past Monday. See page A2 for more.

President Daniels speaks at fifth Fireside Chat

By GRACE YOUNG
Staff Writer

This Tuesday, Hopkins President Ronald Daniels participated in his first fireside chat with the Hopkins student body. Around 40 to 50 students attended the chat.

The Fireside Chat Series was created in 2009 to give students a unique perspective on how the university operates. In the past, deans and provosts have sat with students in front of a fake fireplace to give them the opportunity to interact with the leaders of the school in a more intimate setting. President Daniels is the fifth speaker in the Fireside Chat Series.

Daniels began the chat by speaking about his personal experiences and the journey that led him to a career in academia. Although Daniels had no intention of returning to university after completing law school, his law professor encouraged him



Daniels answered student questions after his talk on Tuesday night.

to consider a career in academics because of his love for "ideas, writing, and debate." His passions for academics led him to prepare for a career in academia while attending Yale University.

"I didn't know how happy I could be in this world," President Daniels said.

In the next part of the chat, President Daniels brought up several issues that were impor-

tant to him and what extent the private market should intervene including where the boundary line between state and market is.

He also brought up the role Hopkins should play in the greater Baltimore community. He stressed that being at a university includes thinking of ways to positively impact the broader community.

Daniels then made a point about accessibility. He is a strong proponent of making higher education more accessible through financial aid, especially to disadvantaged students.

"I think that it is great that President Daniels is committed to financial aid and making the

SEE FIRESIDE, PAGE A8

Students work to bring Girl Up to Hopkins campus

By RIAN DAWSON
Staff Writer

Not many groups at Hopkins can tout themselves as philanthropic ventures. Girl Up, a recently approved campus group, which works through the Center for Social Concern, is just that. At its heart, Girl Up looks to bring attention to the plight of girls around the world.

The group is the passion-project of freshman Hilary Mattfess, who, even though she does not have much experience in the philanthropic world, is making strides to hone the United Nations

Foundation's Girl Up model into a campus tailored organization.

"I don't have a lot of background in it, but I don't think that just because you haven't done something in the past doesn't mean you shouldn't try now," Mattfess said. "And there's no better place to try and start something new than Hopkins. We have all these incredible resources and really motivated, intelligent people. So, I thought why not give it a whirl."

Mattfess first read about the United Nations Foundation's effort Girl Up last summer. She took the initiative to contact the

SEE GIRL UP, PAGE A7

Black History Month features inspiring speakers

By LAURA FLYNN
Staff Writer

This month the Hopkins Black Student Union (BSU), which meets weekly to discuss the future goals and aspirations of the young black community, has been focusing on celebrating Black History Month (BHM) on the Hopkins campus with a series of events.

Au'Sha Washington, the Black History Month Chair, planned numerous activities for both the BSU and any others who wished to attend.

"The BSU is celebrating BHM this year with a variety of events that celebrates our past and embraces our future," Washington said. The Opening Ceremonies took place on Feb. 2nd and featured social activist as well as author of the popular novel, *Everything I'm Not Made Me Everything I Am*, Jeff

Johnson. Johnson addressed the crowd on the topic of "Unclaimed Legacy: Who Will Lead the Next Social Movement?" Washington explained how his speech was applicable directly to her as well

our future and how we could improve ourselves as student leaders," Washington said. Vice President of the BSU Brandon Demory commented on the different, unique approach Johnson took in his speech.

"He challenged several parts of the black community that many people would not normally talk about including the church and social organizations. In my four years here on campus, he was definitely the strongest opener we have had here," Demory said.

Johnson's inspirational speeches attracted more students to attend the Slam Poetry Event, the next event on the calendar. On Friday, Feb. 4th, performers including Hopkins students and other members of the surrounding community who wished to

SEE BLACK HISTORY, PAGE A8



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Radio hostess LaDawn Black spoke in a recent conversation series.

as to other members of the black community.

"He spoke on how we can use history to better understand

NEWS & FEATURES



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTO EDITOR

Celebrity chef Kim O'Donnel treats students to a hearty vegetarian dish featuring squash and bok choy as well as rice.

Celeb Chef surprises with tasty veggie dish

By CHRISTINE HANN
For The News-Letter

Braised squash with black bean sauce and bok choy. Not for you? Think again — students attest that it looks better than it sounds and tastes better than it looks. Members of the community who sampled the dish, which was served with coconut rice and prepared by renowned chef and healthy-eating advocate Kim O'Donnel on Monday night gave it a unanimous positive verdict.

A live (and meatless) cooking demo by the celebrity chef with an interactive Q&A session was held at Nolan's on the 14th of February, orchestrated by JHU Dining in conjunction with student group, Real Food Hopkins and the Hopkins Healthy Monday Project.

The Nolan's Home Zone also went all-vegetarian for the night, featuring dishes developed and introduced by Kim in her recent publication, *The Meat Lover's Meatless Cookbook*.

Situated at a central cooking station surrounded by interested students, alums and locals, the event attracted a crowd whose concerns ranged from good food to ethics.

"As a vegan, I always thought that more could be done for the non-meat eaters at Hopkins. While I appreciate the dining halls paying increasing attention to vegetarian options, there is an inevitable limit in terms of variety," Julia Nick, a satisfied sophomore, said about the event.

"Occasions like these are the perfect chances to fill in the holes for us. It's really good to have this focus on pro-veg eating," sophomore Emily Daggatt added. Daggatt, a vegetarian, said she attended the event seeking inspiration on good, plant-based food on campus.

The audience was not limited to vegetarians; among the gathered were carnivores, too, opting for a healthier lifestyle and seeking to make informed decisions for the environment.

"I eat meat. I like eating meat. But I'm an ethitarian — I only look towards sustainably-raised meat and organic dairy, so that I'm making a conscious, responsible decision in my daily routine," Amy Bachman, Coordinator

for Campus Kitchens at the Franciscan Center, said.

Likewise, many were simply into eating healthy and voiced non-vegetarian perspectives. Surprises and approvals were expressed on the quality of the Home Zone dishes: chickpea crabcakes were a favorite by general consensus.

Guest Chef Kim O'Donnel finds such different approaches on going meatless interesting. As for herself, she is not a vegetarian; but she supports the campaign and is reducing meat consumption, realizing what taking just take one day off can do.

"I'm not in the position to tell people what to eat, or whether they can eat meat or not, but I encourage everybody to find out for themselves what it means to eat or not eat meat," O'Donnel said.

"It's about balance," she added, "You don't see it happening until you actually get going with it. We can all strive for a balance, vegetarian or not."

O'Donnel is a firm believer that plant-based dishes can be delicious for people who love meat. Claiming they had been spoiled by healthy food, members of the audience confirmed her belief.

Freshman Swati Goel was excited about the West Indian-style Channa wrap, saying that it immediately and very precisely reminded her of the cooking of her hometown in Dehradun, India.

The level of engagement and attention displayed reflected the growing recognition that Meatless Monday, the brain child of Bloomberg School of Public Health's Center for a Livable Future, is starting to have in the Hopkins community.

The campaign was first introduced in 2003 and has now turned itself into a nation-wide phenomenon. More than 900 hospitals are now serving vegetarian entrees every Monday in order to reduce meat consumption and thereby saturated fat intake (almost all saturated fat comes from meat and high-fat dairy) by 15 percent, more than.

Ralph Loglisci, Project Director and Technical Advisor for the Center for a Livable Future, elaborated on the implications of going Meatless; less pesti-

cide use, less greenhouse gas production and water conservation to name a few. According to Loglisci, everybody in America going meatless for one day a week achieves the equivalent effect of taking 20 million sedans off the road.

"It's one simple thing that you can do, to understand that what you eat affects more than just your health: [it affects] the health of others, and really, the health of earth. It's something to think about," Loglisci said.

So why Monday? Besides the catchy alliteration, Meatless Monday was created to send a periodic, tailored message.

"Monday is the first day of the week. It's when we set our intentions for the next six days; [it's] the best day to make a change. If we go meatless on Monday, maybe we'll go meatless on one or more days afterwards, too," Loglisci said.

He added that it's important not to demonize meat as meat can certainly be delicious and nutritious when raised under sustainable conditions.

"However, 'I need my protein' is a common misconception in terms of reasons for having to eat meat," he stated, pointing out that people think of meat as synonymous for protein when protein can, in fact, come a variety of natural foods.

Real Food Hopkins cautioned that information remains information until action is taken, however. The key, according to Raychel Santo, president of the group, is our decision as young adults to actually recognize and understand what's going into our mouths.

"Making the connection between the environment, social concerns and our daily lives is not so easy at times food is where it happens. It's an accessible meeting point, easy to see, easy to start," Santo said. "Why? It's simply a lifestyle choice for me, really," she added.

JHU Dining, with the support and partnership of the Aramark culinary team, expects to bring more events to campus with the ultimate goal of continuing to raise awareness for Meatless Monday benefits and offer students more (good) food for thought.

FAS requests funds from SGA for speaker

By SEUNG HYUN OH
For The News-Letter

At its meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15th, the SGA reviewed its hosted events, and highlighted its upcoming events for second semester.

Among those reviewed was the not-so-fruitful rose sale. Devised to bring love and livelihood to the Hopkins community, the freshmen class council launched the rose sale Feb. 13th to 14th, with advertisements and promotions around FFC.

However, due to the lack of participation, the rose sale ended with a deficit; the SGA sold only 2 roses out of the 200 roses they bought. With much of the roses left over, 198 roses were handed out for free to Hopkins community.

That being said SGA evaluated their outcome generously. "I actually think that it turned out [in a] positive way as a good learning experience," Freshmen council President Merrill Anovick said.

SGA also reviewed the now finalized upcoming event "John Hopkins University presents Wiz Khalifa." The problem of transportation was resolved with the help of parent funding, which also allowed a good portion of the budget to be allocated to discounting the tickets by 10 dollars. The tickets are planned to go on sale this Friday for \$20 each for the first 1500 tickets sold. The rest are planned to be sold at \$30 per ticket.

After having settled finalized issues, SGA brought new events to the table.

Among these were the suggestion for a sophomore "halfway to

graduation" party and discussion about the Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS).

SGA gave the sophomore class council a go in response to their request for their class-specific party. According to survey done by SGA, the sophomore class had complained that they felt the most left out among all of the classes at Hopkins.

In order to resolve the issue, the sophomore class council suggested an invigorating event. With favorable reactions from other board members, the class council agreed to discuss the issue and structuralize the event further.

The FAS proposal to host Christopher Hitchens was met with resistance, however. Hitchens, a well-known "Anti-theist," and though a leading intellectual figure, is also a highly controversial individual. Due to the excellent turnout three years ago when he visited Hopkins, an event in which the student body enthusiastically participated, FAS had planned to invite Hitchens back, aiming to fill up Shriver Hall once again. However, budget issues have at least temporarily halted FAS's plans.

FAS contacted Hitchens' agent through a line of contact established three years ago, and made a small offer. FAS and the agent reached an agreement which later became contested with one-third of their proportioned budget siphoned to host another controversial speaker Ayaan Hirsi Ali, however, FAS has decided that they would need additional funding from the SGA in order to host Hitchens and SGA was reluctant to agree.

With Treasurer Wyatt Larkin

absent to the meeting, many members of SGA expressed worries and doubts about increasing funding for FAS. "We might only have \$10,000 to \$15,000 left in the contingency," Senator Nick Trenton said. "I would like to know how much money we have left in contingency before we decide on whether to fund the FAS or not," he added.

Among those who were also unsure was SGA president Marc Dirzulaitis. "If we don't use enough money, we are shorting the student body. However, if we use too much money, then we are shortening the future of SGA," Dirzulaitis said.

Senator Sean Murphy offered a different suggestion. "Do we have to give them \$10,000?" Murphy said. "We could just give them \$1,000 to show our faith and support and help them out in some other ways," he said.

Due to Hitchens's declining health, FAS is hoping for a quick and positive decision from SGA. Diagnosed with esophageal cancer and only 12 months to live, Hitchens doesn't speak frequently.

Determined to host Hitchens once again, FAS is willing to seek help elsewhere. "We will go with whatever we can find, even though it may not sum up to [an] agreed amount," FAS Executive Director Issac Jilbert said. "We will make offer with whatever we have, and we will also ask Deans for money," Jilbert added.

Currently it is uncertain whether or not SGA will grant FAS the funds it needs to host Hitchens.

New collaborative technology introduced

By RACHEL WITKIN
News & Features Editor

The Center for Education and Research (CER) brought TeamSpot technology to Hopkins through a pilot program. The technology will help students work together by connecting multiple computers to one large screen, enabling students to see what their group members are doing, and be able to work on the computer screen at the same time as each other.

TeamSpot computer screens are currently installed on M level and A level in the MSE Library. TeamSpot will soon be available in two computers in the Krieger (HAC) lab and in the Digital Media Center.

Associate Dean of University Libraries and Director of the CER Candice Dalrymple wants students to know that this program is available for them to try out. She works with faculty to help them figure out new things to do in their courses.

"It's a software that makes it possible for small groups of students to work together in a collaborative environment," she said.

Multimedia Development Specialist at CER Reid Szczerba says that TeamSpot is a pretty simple system to use.

"The concept is easy to understand," he said. "Really sitting down and doing it will probably become second nature [for students]."

There are also ample YouTube videos and instruction manuals to help students confused with the start-up procedure.

Once connected to the system, students can share documents and web pages to the large screen, as long as their computers have the same software as the TeamSpot computer.

The computers currently have Microsoft Office, LaTeX, Firefox and Internet Explorer, with common plug-ins.

This will make it accessible for students to work on their projects on their own computer, while sharing information on the big screen for the entire group to see. If, for some reason, software on a student's computer is not compatible with the software on the host computer, there is still a way for students to share the screen to the host computer.

When files are brought up onto the host computer, they are saved in an archive that the entire group has access to. At the end of the meeting, students will be able to look over the files and see the progress that was made during the meeting.

Dalrymple sees this as a vast improvement to what students would have to do without the software, because students can truly work together as a group.

"They [used to] have to figure out a way to have all their computers work together, or they [would] have to give one person

control and have that person be the leader and have everyone else make suggestions," she said.

"When I saw this software, I thought, 'Wow, this is really better than that, because, this way, no one has to give over control to anyone else, and this way people can play equally in the same field.'"

Szczerba does not anticipate many issues with the technology. However, he notes that students may encounter problems with the fact that once the first student signs off, the archive will be deleted after five minutes.

"The only issues that are most likely to come up are with [the student's] own computer," he said.

If students need help, they should be able to go to any help desk around the area, such as the multiple help desks in the library.

The CER has placed student surveys next to each TeamSpot station to see what students think about the technology, and if they should install more stations.

"We're not so much selling students the software as we want them to know about it," Dalrymple said.

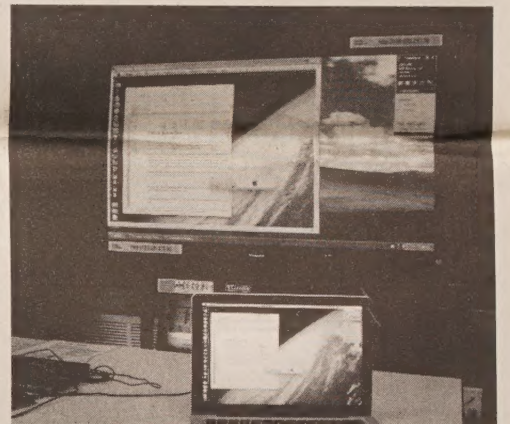
Szczerba agreed. "We're definitely interested in hearing about how students use [the software]," he said. "We would like to hear back from students."

CER staff currently do not know the exact cost of the technology. "I honestly don't know [how much it costs],"

Dalrymple said. The cost will be based on how many TeamSpot systems the school decides to install, a number that they will determine after the software is piloted throughout the school.

The pilot program is not only accessible to students for group projects, but in a program CER is calling ClassSpot.

Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Mi-



COURTESY OF RACHEL WITKIN

TeamSpot allows information to be shared between screens.

chael Falk is currently using the new technology in his Simulation of Materials and Biological Systems class, where he teaches students how to use the computational language MATLAB.

"The program makes the students' thought processes visible in a way that they might not otherwise be," Falk said.

While working on problems in class, Falk will choose a student to explain their ideas to the class.

Instead of the student having to go up to the whiteboard and attempt to draw out his/her solution, the student is able to use their computer mouse on the main screen and visually describe their thought processes.

"Last year, it was hard for students to see what they were doing," Falk said. "They couldn't immediately test [their theories] or [show them] interactively. I think the [new] software [is] good, and I'm excited for it."

Senior Chelsey Wood has found the software to be very helpful in her learning. "It's a great tool to engage students with hands-on experiences with the computer," she said.

"It's similar to having everyone crowded around one computer to type in their ideas, but it's not crowded."

"It's hard to verbally explain MATLAB code, so being able to jump on the computer and explain what you're doing benefits both professors and students," Wood said.

The CER is hoping that students will be as enthusiastic about the new technology as they are.

"We imagine that students are going to find all sorts of innovative ways to actually use this program because it's really all about collaboration," Szczerba said.

"Any time we talk about this program, people just get excited about it."

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NEWS & FEATURES

Man on the Street

RUSH: We asked a group of freshmen girls: what do you think of the sorority recruitment process - did it all move too quickly or did you feel that the process fairly places girls into a group that is good for them?



Lara Tronzo

I thought the rush process was fun. It was a great way to meet a lot of people. I would say that it's hard to genuinely get to know somebody in such a short time span but, at the same time, I'm not sure there is a better way to go about it. I think if people enjoy talking to other people, it's really exciting!



Jenny Ferentz

"Before I went into it, I was definitely nervous about the whole process, but in the end I met a lot of really great people and I'm glad I did it."



Zoe Kaiser

"Between the myriad outfit changes, constant girl-flirting and strange cheek muscles from smiling too much, I felt like I had a small snapshot of each sorority. When I opened my bid envelope, I was overwhelmed. Emotions were running high and I'm sure that girls were at both ends of the spectrum. Some girls dropped out, and I wonder if they would've done things differently with more time."



Allie Black

"The recruitment process was a fun and exciting week! It was a great way to meet new people who will be your lifelong friends. Some people would argue that it wasn't fair for everyone; however, I believe that everything happens for a reason. In the end, I think that everyone will be happy."



Nicole Albstein

"I thought the process was hectic but exciting. A lot went on in a week, and it was stressful, but at the same time it was fun to meet so many people. The first rounds were hard because it's difficult to bond with someone in less than five minutes, but as it got closer to preference night conversations became longer, and everyone learned a lot more about the sororities."



Megan Lamberti

"It was a great experience that I would never want to go through again."



FILE PHOTO

Despite the addition of a new sorority on campus, recruitment still went down this year

Sororities give bids; 145 join

BY KATHERINE SIMEON
Staff Writer

Approximately 150 women were invited to join the ranks of the National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) last Thursday after receiving a bid from one of the four Panhellenic sororities: Alpha Phi, Kappa Kappa Gamma, Phi Mu or Pi Beta Phi.

The most significant difference in this year's recruitment compared to previous years' was establishing the Alpha Class for the new sorority on campus, Pi Beta Phi. At the end of the week, the new sorority accepted 33 young women into their pledge class. Despite the new sorority on campus, sorority recruitment figures were still down from last year.

Their presence in this year's recruitment process was favorable to all parties involved.

"The addition of Pi Beta Phi on campus has strengthened the rush process as a whole," wrote junior Maxi Gumprecht, president of the Hopkins chapter of Alpha Phi, in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "Each sorority has their own distinct identity, and having four now will give the potential new members another place to choose from when deciding what is the best fit for them."

The week-long recruitment process consisted of multiple events where women looking to join a sorority, referred to as Potential New Members (PNMs), had a chance to interact with sisters from every sorority in order to determine which one they wanted to join.

"The goal of the NPC recruitment process, to me, seems to be three-fold," Robert Turning, Director of Greek Life at Hopkins, wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*. "One, [to] allow a maximum number of members the chance to meet each PNM. Two, maximize the number of members each PNM has a chance to meet. And three, keep the groups roughly the same size."

The recruitment experience wasn't exactly what some sisters had envisioned.

"Rush was so much different from what I expected," freshman Tara Nicola said. "I met more people in a span of a few hours than I have ever. I never thought I would join a sorority. I was really surprised [by the experience]. I'm glad to be a part of it."

Nicola accepted a bid from Pi Beta Phi last Thursday.

Although many of the recruitment traditions were upheld throughout the week, the National Panhellenic Officers changed the way in which bids were distributed to the PNMs. At this year's Bid Night, held in the Glass Pavilion, all the sororities put their bids in sealed envelopes and taped each one onto a chair where the PNM would be sitting. Each sorority had a group of 20 sisters in the Glass Pavilion to greet their new sisters.

Counting down the seconds, all the women opened their bid envelopes at once.

"It was amazing," Turning wrote. "The noise was deafening and there were women running everywhere trying to get to their new chapters. It was easily the most exciting Bid Night Hopkins has ever seen . . . I'm pretty sure we'll do it this way from now on."

Many believe that joining a sorority is an excellent way to find a second home and engage more deeply with the community.

"You really have a second family," Nicola said, only shortly after joining Pi Beta Phi. "I have really found my niche. I have met friends across all grade levels. I enjoy getting advice [from upperclassmen] and getting different perspectives."

Even those who do not receive a bid from their top sorority still have a chance to grow from the Greek Life experience.

"What I like best about Panhellenic recruitment takes a while to present itself," Turning wrote. "I really like it when a woman . . . might not be thrilled with the bid she receives at the end, but she decides to give that group a chance. She goes to the bid night activities. She gets to know the members and her fellow new members. She comes back the next week, and the week after that. She gets initiated and becomes a member."

"Before you know it, she's chapter president, or she is representing the chapter at regional and national leadership conferences for her sorority. She is one of the Greek members that is not only looked up to by her sisters, but members of Greek Life across the board. There are women like that in every sorority chapter. The women that give up and don't accept a bid don't give themselves the chance to become that member."

Filmmaker Charles Burnett comes to Hopkins for screening

After showing of *Nightjohn*, renowned independent director offers advice to crowd full of film majors

By WANG JAE RHEE
News & Features Editor

Renowned filmmaker Charles Burnett came to Hopkins to sit in on a screening of one of his own movies, *Nightjohn*, and talked about the movie and his career after the showing last Thursday.

The event, organized by the Hopkins Film and Media Studies program, drew enough people, many of whom were students majoring in Film and Media Studies, to just about fill up an auditorium in Shaffer — albeit with many empty seats. With more than 100 in attendance, Matthew Porterfield, a lecturer in the Film and Media Studies program who also moderated the discussion session after the screening, considered the event to be a great success.

"I thought it was a great turnout, especially because it was something we put together in the last minute," Porterfield said. "I think everyone was excited to meet Charles Burnett."

Indeed, his celebrity status among film buffs was the main reason he was brought to Hopkins and why he was so well-received, especially considering the short notice (the announcement of his visit was sent out to film students just a few days earlier). Burnett was a well-known indie filmmaker in the '70s and '80s, producing classics such as *My Brother's Wedding* (1983), *To Sleep with Anger* (1990), *The Glass Shield* (1994), and — perhaps the work he's best known for — *Killer of Sheep* (1977). Many of the Film and Media Studies majors present at the event had

my sophomore year, and it was a beautiful, life-changing film. He's become an inspiration for my own works, and that's why I was so glad when Hopkins decided to bring him."

Fellow Film and Media Studies majors Alexandra Byer and Joshua Gleason agreed.

"It was a great opportunity to see this great filmmaker, especially because we've studied *Killer of Sheep* in multiple classes," Byer said. "You know, it's not often that we get to see directors that we're studying."

"*Killer of Sheep* was such a great movie," Gleason added. "I had to see [Burnett] for myself."

Linda DeLibero, associate director of the Film and Media Studies program, perhaps put it best:

"In film circles, he's a god," she said.

It was precisely such widespread recognition among the students that Porterfield, on behalf of the Film and Media Studies program, decided to host Burnett.

"Knowing that there was an

er Baltimore movie-going population."

Although the decision to bring Burnett to Hopkins had been made by those teaching at the University, the decision to show *Nightjohn* at Thursday's event was entirely Burnett's.

the film industry, but retained a degree of optimism.

"I'm sure he's correct," Byer said, "but you still have to keep working at it if that's what you want to do."

Junior Film and Media Studies major Clare Richardson remains



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Charles Burnett, center, came to Hopkins to screen his 1996 Disney movie *Nightjohn* for Black History Month

"The first reason I chose *Nightjohn* to be screened [at Hopkins] was because it's about learning and education, which is befitting a place of learning like Hopkins," Burnett said. "The second reason is because it's Black History Month, and I thought [the movie] would do justice to it."

Set in the south during the 1850s, *Nightjohn* depicts the story of a plantation slave girl who struggles to learn how to read and write in defiance of the law preventing slaves from being literate. She learns from *Nightjohn*, a new slave on the plantation who is not only literate but devoted to the mission of educating fellow slaves.

"The film is essentially about the importance of education, something that some people take for granted," Burnett said. "Especially to my younger audience, I wanted to make them realize that it's a privilege to learn."

But Burnett had not come to Hopkins just for that message. After the movie, he addressed the future film directors in the crowd about the technical aspect of being in the movie-making business.

Among other things, he especially emphasized the difficulties of being an independent director in today's big-studio-run world.

"It's a hard world out there," Burnett said. "It's definitely not going to be any bit easy."

The students were somewhat shook by some of the words from a filmmaker who had gone through what they were likely to go through if they chose to enter

undaunted by the challenge.

"If it's something you're passionate about, you should pursue it in any way possible, no matter how hard it is," she said. "There [are] certain avenues of film world that are very hard to get into, but you just have to get your foot in the door in any way you can, and ending up doing what you want to do is feasible possibility."

For others, Burnett was the very proof that they could succeed in the highly-competitive world that was waiting them.

"[Burnett] was a student film maker when he made [*Killer of Sheep*]," Peralta said.

"He didn't have many resources, just like how we don't have much here. But we manage to make some pretty great stuff, just like he managed to do, so I'm confident."

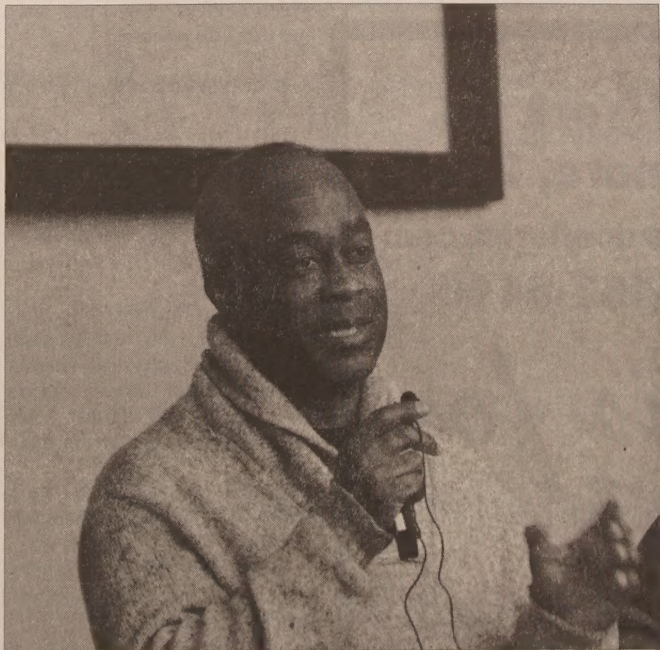
Similarly, Byer saw Burnett as a source of confidence, not despair, for her prospects in the movie industry.

"I think he's a testament to the fact that we can succeed too," Byer said, "what he was doing at that time was totally different from what was being done. But he made it."

Likewise, we can't stop just because it's hard."

Indeed, for those film students who were there to see their idol, the overwhelming feeling was that they left with more passion for their medium.

"I can't stop believing that if I love doing it as much as I do, and keep going at it that I'll find my place in the film-making world," Peralta said.



MORGAN YOUNG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Killer of Sheep, considered to be Burnett's best movie, was made on a low budget

come because they had greatly enjoyed his seminal work.

"[*Killer of Sheep*] is the reason I'm here," senior Film and Media Studies major Diana Peralta said. "I saw [*Killer of Sheep*] in

interest from the student body in *Killer of Sheep*, it made sense to bring him here," Porterfield said. "It's a priority for us to bring films not only to the Hopkins community but to the larg-

NEWS & FEATURES

Historic LGBTQA leadership summit held at Hopkins; 300 in attendance

BY MICHAEL NAKAN
News & Features Editor

Hopkins played host to the second annual Bmore Proud Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Questioning and Allied (LGBTQA) Leadership Summit last Saturday, Feb. 12th.

The event featured LGBTQA students from 14 different schools around the Baltimore-Metro area (as well as schools from as far away as Washington D.C.) coming together to discuss their experiences and make connections.

The all-day summit lasted from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and featured keynote speeches from Staceyann Chin, an open-

a profanity laden poetic tirade against modern society continually trying to pigeonhole her into a specific group — as black, as Jamaican, as a lesbian.

"Black power, I am your afro sister. But do you love the fact that I eat pussy?" she asked the receptive crowd, who applauded her at the end of every poem that she read and erupted into a standing ovation when she finished performing.

Punctuated throughout the event were volunteers clad in black t-shirts that displayed the "Periodic Table of Queer" on the back and the element "Pr" (standing for proud) on the front.

The summit began at Tow-

son about different components of the LGBTQ community (with this year's focus on gay slang) and leadership in a difficult setting.

The summit was brought to Hopkins partially by openly gay Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering Michael Falk, who attended Hopkins as an undergraduate and also serves as the current faculty advisor to the summit. He hopes that the event will serve to broaden the discussion on how LGBT affairs are handled at Hopkins.

"I think that gay students are much more active now than when I was an undergraduate," he said. "But I suspect there are some things about Johns Hopkins undergraduate life which haven't changed too much — that people tend to be much more focused on their academics than exploring who they are as individuals. I think that makes it maybe a more challenging environment to find yourself."

Falk hopes that by bringing the summit to Hopkins, he can try and raise awareness about gay issues on campus.

At present, Hopkins does not employ a full time "advisor" to the LGBT community as Towson does — indeed, the only other university that has a similar full-time employee in the entire state of Maryland is University of Maryland College Park, according to Greathouse.

"I knew that in order to start doing collaborative work I would have to identify some folks, so I started reaching out to some LGBT students around the area," she said.

The second year of the summit saw a large increase over the previous years, and Greathouse hopes that it will continue to balloon in size.

"We don't want [the summit] to just be the Baltimore area; we want to start expanding," she said. "We want to move into the D.C. area, into Pennsylvania . . . we'd like to see [1,000-1,500] students for a three-day conference. We'd like to see it grow in length and size."

Greathouse compared her ideal conference to the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally conference, which will



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Spoken word poet Stacyann Chin reads aloud from her new book: "The Other Side of Paradise." Chin has been published in the New York Times, The Washington Post as well as being featured on 60 Minutes and The Oprah Winfrey Show.



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Eric Alva, the ex-Marine turned gay rights activist, addresses the LGBTQA summit.

ly lesbian spoken word poet of Jamaican-Chinese descent, and Eric Alva, whose experiences as a gay man forced into the closet by the "don't ask, don't tell" policy as a Marine was a major contributing factor to the repeal of the law late last year.

"I am inspired by this gathering; you truly are the rainbow nation," Chin said, addressing a packed crowd in the Glass Pavilion before she started her speech.

Chin proceeded to leap into

son University last year, the brainchild of LGBT Director of Student Development Marien Greathouse.

"The goal of the summit is really to bring students together to talk about the different ways that [LGBT is] organized on campuses," she said. "We want to also introduce them to LGBT culture and some of the different components of our community."

Greathouse also emphasized the importance of learning

be hosted by the University of Michigan next Friday.

Students at the event were treated to an opening reading of poems by Chin, along with a catered lunch. Afterwards, they attended "breakout" sessions, lectures and small discussion based clinics designed to shed some light on certain aspects of the LGBTQA culture (one of the most popular was "So what is this 'Bondage' thing anyway?" hosted by Lochai Stine, the director of Rope Bite and Bondage Club Baltimore).

More speakers, breakout sessions and lectures followed, punctuated by an early dinner and a "mingling" hour for students to exchange pleasantries and information with other like-minded people in the nearby community. The event concluded with Alva's speech followed by a dance party and drag performances.

Also present at the event

were targeted resource groups including Star Track, an organization devoted to preventing the spread of HIV.

The summit was advertised through a variety of means including inclusions in Hopkins's "Today's Announcements" and flash ads in the Rec Center.

Although the event benefited from support from Hopkins administration, the driving force behind the setup came from the students.

Conference co-chairs Mikki Lambert, a Hopkins senior majoring in Economics and Spanish and Ray Delgado, a Hopkins graduate of 2010, were instrumental in setting up the summit and improving on last year.

"[We had] more publicity because last year we were a new conference . . . No one really heard about it," Delgado said. "But this year, we're more legit."

There were over 300 students registered for the event, according to Delgado.

Student reactions to the event were overwhelmingly positive.

"I thought it was a lot of fun and it was nice to be in a place where you felt the strength of the gay community of Baltimore," freshman Joseph Puma said.

"It was nice talking to people like you and that's different to regular life where most of the people you meet are straight."

"I thought the event did a fantastic job of strengthening intercollegiate LGBT relations," senior Patrick Armstrong said. "I made a lot of good contacts, got some really great ideas for events on this campus. If I'm in Baltimore next year I'll definitely attend the next summit."

The event will be hosted at a different university next year.

Intro to Chem Lab professor Pasternack discusses navy research, gives advice to freshmen

By RACHEL WITKIN &
LAURA FLYNN
Staff Writers

Most Hopkins students know Professor Louise Pasternack as the teacher of Intro to Chemistry Lab — what many students may not know that she has done extensive research for the Navy and is married with four children.

Pasternack grew up in a small town in eastern Long Island. She was accepted to Radcliffe, Harvard's women's college, netting her a degree from Harvard (this was before Harvard began accepting women into its general acceptance pool; instead, women were admitted into Radcliffe,

but awarded degrees from Harvard).

Pasternack then got her Ph.D in Physical Chemistry at Hopkins.

Pasternack took a few moments to sit down with *The News-Letter*, and talk about her experiences in the Navy, her family, and her advice to freshmen, especially those in her chem lab class.

The News-Letter (N-L): How did you get interested in chemistry?

Louise Pasternack (L-P): I had a really good chemistry teacher in high school and . . . I went into college as a chemistry major. I liked chemistry because I felt like it was right in the middle.

It was more tangible and understandable than physics because you could visualize things better. And it was more mathematical and precise than biology. So it was so much more logical and you could figure things out. It was a challenge, but it was one I felt comfortable with.

N-L: Did you always want to teach chemistry?

LP: I knew I wanted to teach chemistry — it's kind of a bit of a story. I had always wanted to do research, to teach and to raise a family.

Those were my three big goals. But I knew I could not do all three at the same time.

I am a perfectionist, as some

people here know, and there [weren't] enough hours in the day. So I did research for about 20 years in the Navy, part-time when my children were little. Then I decided I was ready to teach. When I applied I was always asked, "What makes you think you can teach? You have only done research."

So then I went back and took a post-Baccalaureate in teaching, which could give me a high school [teaching] certificate.

I was hoping to get a college job. I did student teaching [at] a high school, and then, while I was job hunting, through a series of coincidences, I found that there was an opening here [at Hopkins] and got it.

It is kind of my dream job, which is great. Now I just teach and don't do research.

N-L: What did you do for the Navy?

LP: I was a civilian, a Ph.D here at Hopkins, and then I had post doctrine fellowship at the Navy. They hired me and [I] stayed at the Navy for 20 years . . . I worked primarily with other Ph.D. chemists.

There was no teaching component to the job, just research. [I] researched physical chemistry, and a lot of different things, everything from flames, energetic materials, submarine atmospheres.

[It was] really [about] climatology because it was chemistry that takes place in fogs. It was a lot of different things, mostly basic research and a little of it [was] applied [research].

N-L: What classes have you taught at Hopkins?

LP: I primarily teach Introduction to Chemistry Lab and in the summer I teach Intro Chemistry and Intro to Chemistry Lab. There is a limited course offering for chemistry in the summer. It's a mixture of Hopkins student

and students from outside who take them. Mostly Hopkins [students though].

N-L: What do you do in Introduction to Chemistry Lab?

LP: There is a lot of homework [that] takes a long time because the kids are beginners and still figuring things out.

It's a lot of work for one credit; the kids are right [about that]. This course prepares them [with] the higher level labs which then become easier because they have the experience of writing lab reports. It takes a long time for this course because it's their first time.

I need to teach them these skills or they won't be comfortable in lab. And those labs are two or three credits. If they put the time in now, it will save them time.

I have been trying for it to become two credits. But the problem is [that] the freshmen are limited in the amount of credits they are allowed to take. If it would become two credits, it would push over the standard students number of credits.

There is a lot of new leadership with [President Ronald] Daniels — a lot of the Deans and Provost and the academic path have changed. I do not know that with the new leadership the amount of credits could change.

It is something I would like to see and will continue to discuss with the department of chemistry. It's very hard to try to cut the workload and still have them learn as much as

is needed. The fairest thing to do is to increase the amount of credits.

N-L: Do you have any advice for the students — particularly freshmen — here?

LP: The big thing that I see . . . that they need to do is break away from memorizing things and start thinking. Start figuring things out because in high school, it is really easy to memorize things and to do well.

Teachers tell you stuff, [you] spit it back and [you] get an A. In college, you can only get so far by memory; after that you need to think. That's the biggest part for freshmen. They want [us] to tell them things, and I want them to figure it out. That's the teaching game and I win when I get them to think — and I like to win.

N-L: So you have a family as well?

LP: [I've been] married for 36 years. I met [my husband] in college sophomore year. He is an attorney.

N-L: Does he understand the research or any of the chemistry work that you do?

LP: He understands it, as much as I understand what he does.

I have got four children. I have one that we are guardians for . . . none of them are going to be chemists or lawyers. The two youngest are seniors in college, but neither [of them] are going to be chemists.

One is a mathematician [and] my other is getting a graduate degree in neuroscience. [We have children in] international history and business and marketing, but no chemistry.



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New club See Hop Run is less stressful approach to serious running

By JUSTIN LI
Staff Writer

See Hop Run, the newly formed Hopkins running club, held its inaugural run this past Saturday, Feb. 13th. Roughly 40 runners turned out for the event and were led on a run to nearby Druid Hill Park by co-presidents sophomore Megan Hodgson and sophomore Anne Pigula. Starting in front of the Newton H. White Athletic Center, the duo took the group on a route to Druid Hill Park and then around Druid Hill Lake.

Many of the runners seemed pleased with the club's first run.

"We're running with a huge group and it's kind of cool," senior Russell Jampol said.

"I thought it was awesome. I always kind of thought it would be awesome if there were a running club [at Hopkins]," junior Nuala DelPiccolo said. "I thought it was a great turnout."

Sophomore Seti Elmarsri was especially excited about the club's formation.

"There are a lot of people here that want to run and get in shape

gym every now and then. When you find other people, it inspires you to reach greater heights."

First formed this semester, See Hop Run offers student runners an organized group of other students to run with.

"We're hoping to appeal to all levels of runners from beginners to people that have been running for years," Pigula said.

"We want the runners to feel independent so we'll split them up into speed groups and pace groups. We'll suggest a route to each group and send them out."

"We may encourage people to do races together or do ab workouts in the Rec Center," Hodgson said.

"Later in the semester if

running groups, Hodgson and Pigula intend to keep the tone of the club a bit informal.

"It'll be a pretty free experience in terms of how long you want to run and how fast," Hodgson said.

"We're going to tell people what direction we're running, but they don't have to follow it. They can just come and find someone to run with."

Each runner had varied reasons for attending. Some of the runners came in order

to meet other runners and find a group to run with.

"I run pretty much every day by myself, but it be great to have people to run with," DelPiccolo said as to why she attended the run.

"I like to meet more people that like to run. In classes sometimes I don't necessarily meet people who like to run or it's only academic minded," junior Jessica Miciak said.

Some sought motivation to run.

"[See Hop Run] was a way to motivate me to run in the morning on Saturday. Otherwise I would be sleeping," Jampol said.

For others, it was a combination of the two.

"It's just the energy of [group running]," Miciak said. "It was really easy to be motivated. If you slowed down there were people; if you sped ahead [there] were still more people."

For Mia Kanzawa, joining the club was a way to experience some more scenic running routes around Hopkins.

"I like running outside more than on a treadmill except I don't know where to go outside. [See Hop Run] is a way to learn new routes," she said.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
See Hop Run is a new club for casual runners.



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Members of See Hop Run begin their inaugural run across campus. The club aims to give runners incentive to get up early for runs.

As former members of the Hopkins cross country team, Hodgson and Pigula are knowledgeable of the many running routes near the Homewood campus.

"We learned a lot of the routes around [the Homewood campus] from running with the team. We've since made some of our routes in the same direction," Hodgson said.

"And we've been exploring," Pigula said. "There are these beautiful, beautiful neighborhoods around that no one knows about."

Both avid runners, Hodgson and Pigula began their running careers on their high school cross country teams.

Both continued their running careers by joining the Hopkins cross country team their freshman year. But the huge time commitment deterred them from continuing with the team for their sophomore year.

"[See Hop Run] is less of a time commitment and more casual," Hodgson said. "Run-

ning was part of what got me to Hopkins (being on the XC team) and even though I decided that I didn't want to compete at that level, it's still a big part of my life."

"My coach would always say, 'Running is a metaphor for life' and having her for a coach was what really got me into running and the parallels between difficulties and good times between running and life," Hodgson said.

Aside from imparting their joy of running to others, Hodgson and Pigula also wish to create a social experience with the club.

"My primary goal for the club is to make it a good social expe-

rience," Hodgson said. "I would love to see a Sunday morning run and have everyone go back to the FFC and have breakfast together. I would love to have it develop into the kind of group that we're friends outside of the club as well as in the club."

"This is a good, healthy way to get out your stress and make new friends," Pigula said. "Running is awesome and running with other people is even better. And running with our club would be the best."

See Hop Run meets in front of the Athletic Center on Tuesdays at 7 a.m., Thursdays at 4:30 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m., and Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

We're hoping to appeal to all levels of runners from beginners to people that have been running for years.

—ANNE PIGULA
SOPHOMORE



EDDIE WANG/PHOTO STAFF

The club plans to explore some of Charles Village's more scenic running routes.

and it's really hard to do that alone," Elmarsri said. "[Running clubs are] like Alcoholics Anonymous. When you're alone, you just sit at your desk and hit the

there's demand, we may start speed workouts. Right now we're just trying to lay the foundation," Pigula said.

Although they will organize

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NEWS & FEATURES

City News in Brief

Werdesheim brothers plead not guilty to beating black teenager

Avi and Eliyahu Werdesheim, brothers and former members of Shomrim, a Northwest Baltimore patrol group, pleaded not guilty Wednesday to beating a black teenager as he walked through their neighborhood on November 19, 2010.

The two are charged with false imprisonment, second-degree assault and possession of a deadly weapon.

They face a maximum sentence of 10 years if convicted; both are scheduled for trial on May 2.

Man's body pulled from Inner Harbor, near Baltimore Museum of Industry

Man's body was pulled from shallow waters of the Inner Harbor at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning. The body was found near a stretch of Key Highway, home to the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

The body was pulled from shallow waters of the Inner Harbor at 8 a.m. Tuesday morning. The body was found near a stretch of Key Highway, home to the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

Worker carjacked outside state building in N.W. Baltimore

A state worker was carjacked outside a state building by two men on Tuesday, who led police into Baltimore County before returning and running from the vehicle.

The unidentified woman was approached by two men at about 4:30 p.m. outside a building on the 4200 block of Patterson Ave.

The building includes offices for the Maryland Health Care Commission.



Eliyahu Werdesheim

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Mentoring and training programs to target Baltimore youth

The Milton S. Eisenhower Foundation announced Monday the launch of three mentoring, tutoring and job-training programs that aim to help children from some of Baltimore's most troubled neighborhoods.

Half a million dollars over the next two years will go to funding these programs, one that will pair mentors with Barclay elementary school students and two programs that will work to lower dropout rates among high school students and help those who have already dropped out get diplomas, receive training and find employment in Druid Heights.

Baltimore is one of 14 cities across the United States to receive a grant from the Eisenhower Foundation to implement the programs.

Nearly 70 couples renew vows at Loyola chapel

About 200 people packed into the Loyola University Maryland

Alumni Chapel in Baltimore on Sunday, Feb. 13, for the first mass renewal of wedding vows organized by the alumni association.

Reverend Frank Nash, the alumni chaplain, led the Mass. The ceremony plans to become an annual event.

Second carbon monoxide leak detected in a week at Dickey Hill school

A leak of potentially deadly carbon monoxide gas led officials to shut down the Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School in southwest Baltimore on Tuesday for the second time in a week.

Six students complained of illness and approximately 40 other people may have been exposed.

A student complaining of abdominal pain was taken to Sinai Hospital but was in non-life-threatening condition. Five adults and a child were briefly hospitalized last week on February 8 after a carbon monoxide leak at the school.

These incidents have prompted a call for a major infusion of state funding to upgrade dilapidated school buildings by elect-

Water main break on North Ave. causes detour in N. Baltimore

A water main break on North Avenue forced drivers to detour around a block of the main thoroughfare. The break on North and Madison Avenues is a 6-inch main and affects mainly motorists, though it left about 45 homes and two businesses without water.

Repair work will block west-bound traffic on North Avenue between Eutaw Place and Madison Avenue until work is completed.

Firefighters respond to house fire in Hampden

Firefighters were called to Hampden for a two-alarm house fire Tuesday afternoon.

Flames broke out about 2 p.m. in the first floor and continued to the second floor of a three-story home in the 3700 block of Roland Avenue.

It took firefighters about 45 minutes to bring the blaze under control, and one firefighter was taken to the Johns Hopkins Hospital to treat debris in his eye.

Neighbors review plans for new arena at Towson University

Towson University offered neighbors of the campus a look at the final plans for a \$45 million athletic center at a meeting on Tuesday.

Residents were encouraged to ask question and comment on the design as well as landscaping and lighting.

New Cognitive Science Society to start at JHU

By MAYA SILVER
Staff Writer

This semester saw the launch of Omega Psi, the first cognitive science honors society at Hopkins.

Amanda Glasser, senior, and Stephanie Amalfe, junior, are co-chairs of the new society, which aims to educate the public about cognitive science and support undergraduates in the field.

"We focus on bringing together cognitive science undergraduates, increasing awareness of and inspiring interest in the field by way of lecture series and other campus events, and providing network opportunities among undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and alumni," Glasser said.

The new society will be joining the ranks of Nu Rho Psi and Psi Chi, the neuroscience and psychology honor societies at Hopkins.

However, the co-chairs were adamant that cognitive science

is distinct, and accordingly deserves its own society.

"This is not Psi Chi, this is not Nu Rho Psi. Cognitive science is its own field," Glasser said.

Glasser's passion for cognitive science led her to approach Dr. Michael McCluskey, a professor in the department, about the possibility of starting a new society.

McCluskey and Dr. Colin Wilson are currently the faculty advisors, guiding the club as it grows.

And it is indeed growing. There is currently no national undergraduate cognitive science society, so Glasser and Amalfe plan to create one.

Hopkins is one of only a handful of schools with a cognitive science department, and even fewer with an undergraduate society dedicated to the field.

Glasser and Amalfe hope to not only establish a cognitive science society at Hopkins, but also work with existing societies at other universities to create an established society at the national level.

"Getting it recognized at the international level would be an immense honor, and an immense opportunity for people to get involved in this new field of study," Amalfe said.

To that end, Glasser and Amalfe plan to reach out to other schools, as well as to the Cognitive Science Society (CSS), a national professional organization that holds conferences and publishes journals.

According to Glasser, the CSS also funded the University of Connecticut Cognitive Science Club.

She hoped that the new society at Hopkins may become affiliated with the CSS as well.

Reaching out to other undergraduate cognitive science groups nationwide is actually a requirement for the new society to advance beyond club status and become a true honor society in the eyes of the university.

"The school will not allow us to be an honors society unless we prove to them that we are making a concerted effort to reach out to other schools and that other schools are interested in joining us in creating a national honors society," Glasser said.

"Right now we're technically just a club, or student organization," she added.

Several society members are involved in the process of recruiting national support, and they planned to send out notices to other universities within the next week. Within Hopkins however, Amalfe was eager to get the word out about what cognitive science actually is.

"A lot of people don't even know what the cognitive science major is. They don't know what the subject involves, and it's a shame," she said.

"[Cognitive science is] neuroscience, it's psychology, it's linguistics, computer science, philosophy and all these things kind

of come together to a theory of what our brain and mind are and how they relate to each other."

The society is already on its feet with fifteen members, mostly cognitive science majors. However, psychology and neuroscience majors were also represented, and there is no restriction on membership.

The co-chairs hope membership will grow with upcoming events.

Scheduled for March 11 is "Creativity and the Brain," a lecture by Charles Limb, the first in a series hosted by the society. Limb is an otolaryngologist, surgeon and researcher at Johns Hopkins, as well as professor of music at the Peabody Conservatory.

"What he does is take musicians, put them in the fMRI scanner while they're improvising on a special non-ferromagnetic keyboard, and look at what areas of the brain are activated and deactivated while improvising," Glasser said.

In addition to organizing lectures and other events, the society will enable its members to network with other undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and alumni to find research positions and get a sense of career options after graduation.

The society is currently planning a

mixer with the cognitive science department. Amalfe believes the professors in the department are a draw to prospective majors.

"The professors are very, very good. It's like you'll read a paper in class and you'll realize 'Oh, it's his paper.'

He's in our department. It's a respected individual within the cognitive science community and the neuroscience community."

They're so friendly and so kind, they're always willing to help out, and I think that's definitely something that will attract people to the department in general," she said. "It definitely did for me."

Like other honor societies on campus, the cognitive science society will incorporate community service.

Members will volunteer at the Snyder Center for Aphasia Life Enhancement (SCALE), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving people with aphasia, a disorder often caused by stroke that impairs speech production and/or comprehension.

"Any honors society should have a community service component," Glasser asserted, "This is a way to really impact people's lives in a way that has to do with cognitive science."

Volunteers from Hopkins will have the opportunity to help a person who struggles with aphasia to gain the tools to communicate through reading classes, special technology and development of personal projects over time.

Glasser, who has volunteered at the center before, explained that most people with aphasia who would otherwise feel insecure venturing out into society are empowered by the program.

"They get this empowerment that they never really had . . ." she said, "Literally, on a day-to-day basis, people don't have a voice, they can't communicate what they're feeling all the time."

Long relegated to the tails of neuroscience and psychology, undergraduates in cognitive science at Hopkins are making their presence heard, on and off campus.

"We find it is a shame on campus that . . . no one really knows what our major is," Amalfe said, adding, "When you actually ask [cognitive science majors] about what it is, we can't stop talking about it. Everyone within this society really does have a passion for what we do."

When it comes to the brain, the members of Omega Psi put their hearts in it.

Hopkins News in Brief

BME grad student team scores in business plan competition

A team of Johns Hopkins biomedical engineering graduate students tied for first place in the 2011 Georgia Bowl Business Plan Competition, hosted February 4 and 5 by Kennesaw State University.

The team presented their business plan for TheraCord, a system that they developed to improve the process of umbilical cord blood collection.

Stem cells preserved from cord blood after live births can be used in the treatment of diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma.

The team's clinical sponsor is Edith Gurewitsch, an associ-

ate professor of gynecology and obstetrics in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Peabody Chamber Opera remembers the '50s at Theatre Project

Peabody Chamber Opera will present Remember the Fifties — a double bill of one-act operas, Lee Hoiby's *This Is the Rill Speaking* of 1991 and Leonard Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* of 1952, at Theatre Project, 45 W. Preston St., from Feb. 24 to 27.

Eight student singers will perform, and two students in Peabody's graduate conducting program will lead the pit orchestra. The singers and conductors were coached by Peabody Opera's music director, JoAnn Kulesza.

Sharon Gerecht of WSE receives CAREER award

Sharon Gerecht, an assistant professor in the Whiting School's Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, is the recipient of a Faculty Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation.

The CAREER award, is one of NSF's most competitive awards given to faculty members at the beginning of their academic careers to emphasize high-quality research and novel education initiatives.

Gerecht's CAREER project is focused on interdisciplinary investigation of functional interactions between hypoxic pathways and matrix-driven cues that are essential for vascular morphogenesis and network assembly.



COURTESY OF CLONING RESOURCES

Hopkins astrophysicist is co-winner of Shaw Prize

Johns Hopkins University Astrophysicist Charles Bennett and two colleagues have been awarded this year's Shaw Prize in astronomy.

Bennett and his colleagues, WMAP team members from Princeton University, are receiving the award for groundbreaking research has helped determine the precise age, composition and curvature of the universe.

Bennett is the second Hopkins researcher to win a Shaw Prize in the award's seven-year existence.

Hop search for CTY executive director

A search committee was recently formed to find a successor to Lea Ybarra, who will leave Johns Hopkins this fall after 14 years with the Center for Talented Youth.

CTY identifies top academic students in grades K through 12 and provides challenging summer residential programs, distance education and family academic programs.

— Danielle Stern

Online Bookkeeper Wanted

Adelaide Engineering Services is currently looking for a reliable hardworking bookkeeper/customer rep to work with the company. Part Time Position, work within flexible hours Monday through Friday, must be above 21 years, understand & speak English fluently with computer experience.

For more information, contact Stephen Tindall at stephentindall20001@gmail.com.

NEWS & FEATURES

New student group seeks to empower women

GIRL UP, FROM A1
organization. "I got in touch with a couple of the women that are active in it to see if they wanted a campus branch model to be created," Matfess said. "They said they hadn't had one or developed one, so it was kind of up to me. They didn't know what framework to develop."
Matfess has been creating her own infrastructure and figuring out what works and what does

a place that could benefit from that type of group and could be beneficial to the UN foundation's outreach."
In much the same way, Last looks at Girl Up as filling a void that Hopkins and the greater Baltimore community lacked.
"What I liked about this effort was that although it has this aspect of 'we can help finance girls around the world,' it was also spreading awareness, and I think

ministrative Assistant at the Center Susan Chase said.
"We support them — they apply for money and then we help them manage their budget and we do simple things like their ordering," Chase said. "They can use our office equipment, they can use our vans for free. Our director and associate director also act as sorts of mentors to them."
Because the group is only in its first semester of existence on campus, Matfess said that one of their major goals is to establish themselves and create an environment and infrastructure that ensures the group's longevity.

"This year, a lot of it is going to be getting our name out there," Matfess said. "Just establishing ourselves as a group on campus that's willing to work with other groups. I'd love to get some good fundraising in, some good awareness



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

not in terms of a campus branch of the organization.

"We're kind of just winging it," she said. "It's incredibly different. The UN foundation works with the UN to promote UN ideals and programs throughout the United States, and so the UN Foundations program Girl Up is doing a lot of fundraising efforts. They're also going around the country to increase awareness of the plight of girls around the world."

Matfess and group Vice President Briana Last both see Girl Up as something incredibly beneficial to the Hopkins community.

"It's a great cause and it's something I believe in, and the stats prove it can be incredibly beneficial in an international development," Matfess said. "I decided that Hopkins is definitely

that was something that was missing from the Hopkins community and I also think missing from the local Baltimore community," Last said.

The group is supported through the Center for Social Concern and has a mentor through the political science department, Professor Siba Grovogui.

"I at first considered applying to have Girl Up as an SGA group," Matfess said. "While the SGA is a great organization, and a lot of the clubs that go through it are wonderful, I feel that our place is at the Center for Social Concern just because there is a more philanthropic-minded community there."

Through the Center of Social Concern, the group receives many benefits and support, Ad-

campaigns.

"I also want to establish ourselves as a group on campus that isn't going to fade away in a semester or two — I want to work on really providing a good infrastructure for the club to continue working."

Though the group is mainly focusing on establishing themselves, they already have projects planned. They recently completed a "Cookies for a Cause" bake sale and are in the middle of sending out solicitation letters to get items for a raffle.

One of their largest initiatives is to go into Baltimore area schools and give presentations on the awareness of girls' issues. Matfess said the group has been in contact with the Greater Homewood Community to see what schools would potentially

be receptive to the idea. They are also working on completing lesson plans.

"We're trying to get into Baltimore schools, and I think that will be a great way to spread civic duty and these efforts to younger students," Last said.

While the Hopkins brand of Girl Up is dedicated to the same things that the UN Foundation's organization does, Matfess said that does not necessarily mean that they will be donating all the funds they raise to Girl Up.

"In the one fundraiser that we've had so far — the 'Cookies for a Cause' bake sale — we donated to the Greater Good Foundation with the purpose of sending Afghan girls to school," Matfess said. "And I'd like to keep it centralized and focused like that," Matfess continued, "so that when we donate the money it's not to a broad, all-encompassing organization that dishes it out in ways that it sees fit."

Matfess said that the group is taking the direction of donating to very specific causes because of the personal nature of donating to something specific, rather than something general.

"We're seeking to have very specific donations just so that it feels a lot more personal when you're asking people to give you some of their very hard-earned money. It's a lot easier to convince them if you can have a very specific image and then the facts related to it," Matfess said. "It's hard to just say 600 million girls in the developing world have issues; we need to help them."

The group, Matfess said, is open to all sexes. It's not just a group for girls.

"We're an ecosystem and ignoring women's issues because you think that they're soft or feminine is ultimately going to be detrimental to your own rights and experiences," she said.

College News in Brief

Trinity to launch study abroad program at Fudan University in 2012

Trinity College, located in Hartford, Conn., has become the first liberal arts college in the United States to establish a formal partnership with Fudan University in Shanghai.

With the addition of this new program at Fudan to existing ones in Rome, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Paris, Trinidad and Vienna, Trinity has achieved its goal of having a study abroad program in every major area of the world.

Fudan, a top-ranked comprehensive university in China with 27,000 students, already has formal ties with major research institutions in the U.S. including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, Washington University in St. Louis and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Jadeveon Clowney announcement: University of South Carolina

College football's top high school recruit this year, Jadeveon Clowney, announced that he will play for South Carolina next fall. The 18-year-old announced in a televised press conference held at his high school that he had chosen South Carolina over Clemson and Alabama.

Villanova Law may have knowingly reported inaccurate scores

On Feb. 4th, the legal tabloid *Above the Law* reported that the Dean of Villanova's law school had sent out a letter to the student body saying he had seen inaccuracies in admissions statistics reported by the law school to the American Bar Association in the past.

Although no one has formally been held responsible for the inaccuracies, there is speculation that they had been purposefully put into place in order to bump Villanova's standing up in law school rankings. Reportedly, inaccuracies were found only in GPAs and LSAT scores.

Villanova has opened its own investigations into the matter, in addition to having hired an outside firm, Ropes & Gray, to make inquiries independently.

—Danielle Stern

Shooting on MTSU Campus

Police have taken a suspect into custody after shooting broke out on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

The shooting was reported just before noon in the Business and Aerospace Building. According to a security alert, two men were arguing when one man shot the other in the hand.

The area around the building was placed on lock-down, and officials asked everyone on campus to stay inside buildings.

Hopkins in 300 words

Caplan Dance Studio. Ballet Class. 3:00 — 4:30 p.m.

By DANIELLE STERN
Staff Writer

The sounds of Mozart and Bach fill the room as 20 neuroscience, public health and International Studies majors chassé, temps lié and grand jeté across the floor. Students walk in consumed with thoughts of Orgo Lab and economics and 90 minutes later, they emerge as ballerinas.

The Caplan Dance Studio in the Mattin Center comes alive on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with these 20 collegiate dancers, hoping to get away from the usual stress of Hopkins life. I cherish these three hours every week, my opportunity to focus on my body and to simply focus on myself.

The teacher, Lisa, always makes me smile. She's your typical

ballet teacher, soft-spoken and gentle, just like all the ballet teachers that I had as a child. The studio is simple: slippery wood floor, fingerprint-covered mirror wall and an imposing orange velvet curtain that cloaks the right wall.

On the other side of the room, opposite the heavy curtain, is a vast window, outside of which are grand trees that lost their leaves to winter, yet always catch my eye nonetheless. I walk in, stretch and sit in silence in the back of the studio. I observe the other dancers, noticing whether more people are wearing pink or black tights, and how many people have their hair in a bun, deciding how I want to style myself. We take our respective places at the bar, I assume my spot facing the mirror for first side. Some simple pliés, tendus and ronde de jambes later we put the bars away and begin to work in the center. We jump and then take our place in the corner to begin moving across the floor. Dancers fly through space, and as class ends, we all gather our things and return to the real world.

COURTESY OF DANIELLE STERN
The Dance Studio is a place where students can dance off their stress.



CORRECTIONS

Last week's article on A2, "Spring semester SAC Fair attracts multitude of students," was attributed to Wang-Jae Rhee, when it should have been attributed to Wang Jae Rhee.

In last week's article on A7, "Meighan sentenced for 2009 killing of Frankl," the pullquote was attributed to Rachel German without further identification. The attribution should have identified Rachel German as Miriam Frankl's mother.

In last week's article on B7, "Student on a budget? There's an app for that," it was incorrectly stated that iPhone apps appear on an iPad screen in iPhone-sized portions. It should have been noted that users have the option of using the apps either in iPhone size or blown up to full iPad screen.

In the same article, it was incorrectly stated that the 3G capable iPad is \$120 more than any Wi-Fi only counterpart. The difference in prices is in fact \$130.

In the same article, it was incorrectly stated that the wireless 3G subscription plan was \$15/month for 25MB. It should have been 250MB. Also, the article should have mentioned that the fee for a 3G wireless subscription, unlike most cellular data fees, is not based on a contract, but based only on the months used.

In the same article, it was stated that handwriting everything on the iPad with one finger is tiring. The article should have mentioned the various styli that exist to alleviate this issue.

In the same article, it was incorrectly claimed that the iPad cannot open PDF documents. In fact, the iPad can open PDF documents through the program iBooks. The article should also have mentioned that the iPad has the ability to view, save and search for words or phrases within a PDF document without an internet connection, once it has been opened in iBooks.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

SECURITY ALERTS

Between February 5th at 12:00 p.m. and February 8th at 3:00 p.m., an undergraduate's front bicycle tire was removed and taken. The tire seems to have been latched off through the bicycle's quick release feature. The bicycle was parked in front of the undergraduate's residence. Investigation continuing.

On February 12th at 11:56 p.m. on 3200 Block Guilford Avenue, two undergraduate were approached from behind by two armed, unidentified males. A cellular telephone and cash were taken from one of the undergraduates. The two suspects ran north on Guilford Avenue. Baltimore and Campus police responded and searched the vicinity with negative results. There were no injuries. Investigation continuing.

NEWS & FEATURES

Former senator Hagel keeps speech nonpartisan

FAS, FROM A1
give you opportunities, boundaries, systems," Hagel said. "But throughout history, it's always been the individual. The involvement, the leadership, the capacity, the strength, the courage, the brains — these are the things that change the world."

Hagel's presentation was met largely with positive student response.

"I found [Mr. Hagel's] stance on the global individual quite interesting," freshman Maha Hussain said. "I especially liked how he managed to point out the faults of both Democrats and Republicans and basically the American institutions in general."

Hagel's lack of partisanship was in fact one of the reasons he was invited to speak at the Foreign Affairs Symposium.

"His reputation as a moderate Republican appeals to and lets him represent both sides of the aisle," FAS Executive Director Isaac Jilbert said. "Now that he's out of office he can talk clearly about his opinions, and frankly it's nice to have the kind of perspective. It's nice to actually hear an opinion from someone who's been there, who's done that. He recognizes the reality behind all

the smoke [and] mirrors in politics."

"I've always liked the way he's represented the party, that he wasn't super far right. And I've really liked that he's able to criticize the party — he's not par-

them down — especially government, especially Wall Street. This was never an Obama thing or a Democrat and Republican thing."

Hagel similarly discussed the limitations of government in the international realm, particularly in relation to the occurrences in Egypt.

"It's up to the Egyptian people. It's not up to us," he said. "Countries run into a lot of trouble when we try to influence the outcomes in other countries. In the transparent world we live in today, it's going to be very difficult to do that."

"[Military power] isn't going to make a difference in the influence of nations. The point is, it is economic power; it is social power. It's the human condition that always wins in the end . . . The limitation of great powers such as America is becoming very clear," he said.

He also believes that the civil unrest spilling throughout the Middle East today rather reflects the manifestation of the individual.

"You cannot chain up human endeavors; you cannot chain up ideas," said Hagel.

"You're entering a world where NGOs and independent entities are going to have a bigger impact . . . I don't think it's going to be government . . . They're going to fill that gap, that vacuum."

Thus, ironically, as the world becomes more globalized — bigger and more involved — the central players become smaller; power, according to Hagel, has been and continues to be in the hands of the individual.

"Because the world has gotten so big, so complicated, the only way people, governments, societies can govern themselves is . . . to define it back down to the more local level," said Hagel.

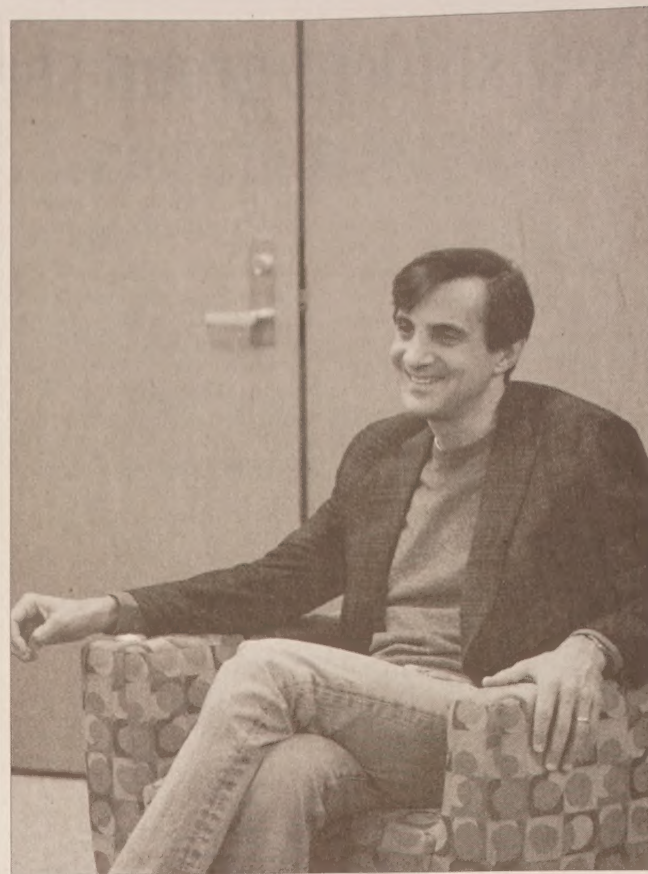
"No matter what your location and vocation . . . you're going to be subjected to everything going on in the world."

While Hagel's presentation largely explored many of the conflicts occurring in the international world, it was also infused with optimism towards our capabilities to enact change, fitting with the overall message for the Symposium.

"The one thing [the directors of the Symposium] really do believe is that whatever you're passionate about, whatever you really want to do, you need to get involved and do that. Don't live on the couch for the rest of your life," Jilbert said. "Whatever it is you're passionate about, that's what you should pursue because when everyone does that something transformative can happen."



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Hagel spoke on the theme of global citizenship at the FAS series.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
President Daniels spoke with students about his plans for the university.

Fireside chat gives students insights on plans for Hopkins

Daniels responds to students' questions

FIRESIDE CHAT, FROM A1
University more accessible, because of course cost is a pressing and stressful issue for students and their families," freshman Alessandra Bautze wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I'm glad that President Daniels recognizes this need."

Daniels is also trying to find ways to bridge different parts of the University together to provide enhanced programming for interdisciplinary programs such as the International Studies, public health, and neuroscience majors.

"We need multiple disciplines to work through problems," he said during the chat. "There is a challenge of having a campus that is physically separated."

Junior Meagan Young appreciates Daniels' effort to work on interdisciplinary programs.

"I really like the idea of fostering relationships between different departments," she said. "Some of the ways I'd like to see this happen is through more discussion and project-oriented classes that are required in multiple departments and let students work together in a round-table sort of fashion," she said.

"The engineering departments have various design classes, and I think taking a step in the right direction could be a design class that involves all of the majors."

Students came to the chat for several reasons. Young came to ask Daniels a specific question. Young is a double major in civil engineering and archaeology, but the newly offered archaeology major requires costly mandatory field work, which can cost up to \$5,000.

"It's very exciting to get hands-on experience and apply the methodologies we learn in class to a field setting, but the majors are expected to find their own funding for this requirement," Young said. "I wanted to see if President Daniels had any input on how to go about modifying the scholarship guidelines or setting up a separate fund altogether."

"I felt very comfortable approaching them afterwards; they seemed genuinely interested in my questions," an anonymous freshman who attended the Conversation said.

The BSU's final event for Black History Month will be the BSU Formal on Friday, Feb. 25th, which is open to the entire student body.

Questions ranged from where expansion of the school was headed to what the President could do to improve Greek Life

and the social life of undergraduates in general.

The President replied by saying that new biology and chemistry labs were going to be built for undergraduates. Previously, the Capital Campaign raised money primarily for renovating buildings but this time, the Campaign will focus on human capital, such as improving labs for undergraduates, providing better financial aid to fund programs such as the archaeology program, and towards nurturing professors.

In response to how to improve the social life at Hopkins, Daniels said that there were various campus groups that are working on improving undergraduate life and that he has looked into improving social life with the Trustees.

After the Q&A session, the chat concluded. Students seemed generally happy with the way the chat went.

"I don't think I could have asked for a better response from President Daniels regarding the funding situation for archaeology majors," Young said.

"That being said, there are some other aspects of the University operations that I feel could be more open to students. For example, many undergraduates express a concern about financial aid. I feel like the University and financial aid office could be more open in explaining some of their behind-the-scenes operations because more often than not we only see the end result."

"I would like the University to show us the steps it's taking in its various departments and offices so we can believe in the results we get."

"I had a wonderful time . . . I feel very fortunate that we have such an engaged, diverse and impressive student body."

—RONALD DANIELS, HOPKINS PRESIDENT

Bautze thought that it was interesting to hear Daniel's personal experiences.

"[It's] so great that the new President is taking the initiative and truly cares about students," she said. However, she is still not

sure about how the University exactly operates and would like to learn more about it in future fireside chats.

Daniels enjoyed meeting students at the fireside chat. "I had a wonderful time at last night's Fireside Chat," Daniels wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I feel very fortunate that we have such an engaged, diverse and impressive student body. My interactions with students always leave me more excited about being at Hopkins than before and last night was no exception."

Black History Month events include conversations and ball

BLACK HISTORY, FROM A1
be showcased, performed original pieces. Washington and BSU President Nick Brady were pleased with the success of the event.

"50 or 60 people came, everything went better than expected," said Brady. Washington also said that each performance brought something unique to the event.

"The pieces were thought-provoking and each act differed," she said.

The BSU then hosted the first of several meetings in the Conversations Series with LaDawn Black, the radio personality of channel 92Q (92.3FM).

After having been approached by the BSU, Mrs. Black was excited to come to Hopkins.

"I have spoken at many other colleges, but never at Hopkins," Black said.

The Conversation Series sought to create a small, welcoming environment allowing for the discussion of intimate facets of love, sex and relationships. Topics discussed included fidelity, monogamy, the definition of relationships and interracial dating. During these open discus-

sions, students were able open up and ask extremely personal questions. At the conclusion of the event, anyone who was unable to speak his mind during the meeting was able to individually approach LaDawn.

The second Conversational Series, entitled "Blacks Converting to Islam," were presented by two black couples, Zakia Amin with Imam Hassan Amin and Tiye Mulazim with Imam Mutee Mulazim.

Imam Hassan Amin and Imam Mutee Mulazim both have work experience in the Baltimore area. Amin works today as an

employee of the University while Mulazim works at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. They started by discussing the history of the black race and their own experiences with racism and prejudice.

During his youth, Amin was a social activist affiliated with the Black Panther Party.

"I was in the rally on the day of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death," Amin said.

While he was a part of the protest, he did not associate himself with the violence. Amin pressed upon the point that the religion



COURTESY OF MICHAEL DAWEDEIT
The theme of this year's Black History Month's events was "Breaking the Box."

of Islam stresses and encourages change in a non-militant manner.

"Islam talks about the change of a person inside and then the community around that person," Amin said.

He explained that he believes this is also why Islam is the fastest growing religion today.

Mulazim added that Islam's popularity stems from its open-

ness to diversity/different races.

"In Islam, and in life, we are all the same," he said.

Next, wives Zakia Amin and Tiye Mulazim addressed the group. Tiye Mulazim had grown up in a middle class family in the city of Baltimore. She became interested in the Islamic religion because of its respect towards the female sex. "After two and a half years of being treated like a girl, I was ready to be converted to Islam," Mulazim said.

"She definitely does not need me to speak for her at all," her husband Imam Azim Mulazim said smiling from across the table prompting both husbands to share a laugh.

Zakia Amin explained that she, on the other hand, was drawn to the religion because unlike Christianity, Islam does not contradict itself.

"I would read something, read another thing and it would all make sense," Amin said.

"I was a nerd, so of course, I liked a religion that was logical . . . I would expect a lot of you guys to like it, too," she added.

The four panelists ended the conversation humorously and encouraged students to ask questions.

"I felt very comfortable approaching them afterwards; they seemed genuinely interested in my questions," an anonymous freshman who attended the Conversation said.

The BSU's final event for Black History Month will be the BSU Formal on Friday, Feb. 25th, which is open to the entire student body.

The BSU is celebrating BHM this year with a variety of events that celebrates our past and embraces our future.

—AU'SHA WASHINGTON, BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHAIR

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NEWS & FEATURES

Be mine, Valentine: What makes the perfect day?

Tone down the expectations and give men credit for their efforts

Nothing over-the-top; keep it natural

When it comes down to it, my guess is that 80 percent of guys would rather just sleep through the 14th, but personally, if I have to celebrate it I would like to keep things simple. Keeping in mind one day isn't going to make up for the other 364, I would try and enjoy the excuse to have a great dinner and spend the night with someone I like.

That said most guys don't look forward to Valentine's Day in part because of the added pressure and higher expectations we think the 14th brings with it. On top of that, if two people have been dating long enough to be celebrating Valentine's Day, the guy has probably come to a striking and humbling conclusion: he has very little to no idea about what women actually want. This conclusion leaves us guys in a pretty precarious situation come Feb. 14th, and no matter how put together we look, we've all freaked out on the phone with some maitre d' trying to get a table (sorry, Angela from Woodberry Kitchen).

But what could actually make Valentine's great for guys? Maybe in addition to you wearing new Victoria's Secret lingerie (which if your boyfriend hasn't told you already, looks great on you), most guys would want a simple and fun night without all the unnecessary

added pressure. Those girls out there to please your man: find a way to put us at ease, fool us, trick us and even lie to us. Chances are if you've been going out with a guy long enough to be celebrating Valentine's Day, you've managed to fool him once or twice i.e. last Friday night. . . .

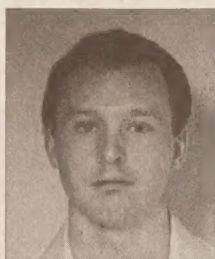
Guys will spring for dinner at that restaurant you keep mentioning and happily sit through the night besides 50 uptight couples talking about the same generic things (how bitter do I sound?), all in an effort to show you we actually care about you during the other 364 days of the year. Ideally, you already know we care, but if Valentine's Day makes you happy, fine. . . . Just in return, hide some of those ridiculous expectations that we both know are impossible to reach and acknowledge that we're trying. And if for some reason you can't hide those expectations and still demand all the bells and whistles, Victoria's Secret never hurts. . . .

Chances are your boyfriend isn't going to cover the bed in rose petals and write you an ode, but he probably picked up your phone call at 3 a.m. last week and listened to you vent for an hour. I understand it's reassuring and maybe even pleasurable to be told how much you're loved once a year, but realize too that guys show affections in much subtler ways. Maybe that's what guys want on Valentine's day: for there not to be a need to prove our love. Well, that and great sex.

But in all seriousness, just acknowledge that we're trying and let us know you appreciate it. Maybe our actions over the past months have been misguided or just plain stupid (I still don't know what I was thinking when I bought that birthday present), but as long as you let us know our efforts haven't been futile we'll keep trying in the future. That, or you can forget everything I just wrote and just have great sex at the end of the night. After all, guys do think with two entirely different heads. . . .

Mike McKenna

Guest Sex Columnist



So, it was Valentine's day this week, one of those days of the year that we both love and hate. As far as I noticed, it seemed to have topped just about everyone's stress meters. No matter how prepared you are for it, it does always seem to creep up on little ol' unsuspecting you.

Well, honestly I think guys stress far too much about what to get us girls. Not everyone needs that ultimately planned out day, where you know what you're going to do down to the last minute. Now don't take that as license to wait until the last minute, but personally I prefer the more laid back approach to a romantic evening.

More than anything, most of the time girls just want a day with their boyfriend. Something sweet, but nothing overly teeth-rottening.

One of my best friends actually has a pretty hilarious idea of a perfect Valentine's day. All she wants is two Domino's heart-shaped medium pizzas, a sappy rom-dram (romantic drama, not my personal thing, but she's pretty sappy herself) and a gallon of hot chocolate.

For me, that might be pushing the nonchalance. And pizza with cocoa sounds terrible.

Personally, I think that the sweetest thing a guy could do for Valentine's day would be to cook

me dinner. This has yet to fail actually (most girls are suckers for a guy who can cook). It's really easy to find a simple tasty recipe online to make, and most even have foolproof directions on how to cook them.

I know that a lot of guys think they can't cook at all, but try.

Even if it's a disaster the fact that you tried will be appreciated. Just make sure to have a back-up plan. Now if you don't know how to cook (and are really afraid to try), a nice dinner is always well accepted. It doesn't need to be really expensive either.

Just the forethought means more than the actual amount you spend on it. I'm not a huge one for crowds, so I would recommend a smaller, more secluded or less crowded restaurant. Most girls would agree with this, too.

As far as presents go, I'd say go for something more personal than chocolates and flowers.

Not that chocolates and flowers aren't amazing to get, but put some thought into them. At least know that she loves that par-

ticular type of flower or candy. Again with presents, it's really the thought that counts.

Even if the present is really cheap, but you know your girlfriend will love it, then it's okay. Personally I always liked the random gifts more than the expected ones. You know, the ones that are completely unromantic, but you've really wanted for a while.

I know my sister did this for her boyfriend for Valentine's. She got him Dead Space 2, which is not at all romantic, but he loved it. So this definitely works with both guys and girls.

I don't really have a ton of love for this holiday. Mostly because people go a little crazy about it. Everyone tries to be

as romantic as possible and make it a perfect day.

But the big romantic gestures have always seemed a little sappy and ridiculous to me. Honestly they always come off as incredibly hokey and forced.

Guys, you should definitely be much more imaginative than most of the cliches; trust me, not every girl wants diamonds and a giant teddy bear. Though for

some girls it's perfect, to a lot of girls the whole cliched romanticism seems like you didn't try because it doesn't reflect your relationship.

Though, I will say that sometimes they do work. Guys, play to your strength because despite being sappy as hell, having your boyfriend sing to you with a guitar is incredibly adorable, if embarrassing.

Katelin Witzke

"Beyond Sex-Ed"



Lifting weights can aid in weight loss

So the weather outside is frightful and your body is looking less than delightful — you aren't alone. Research has recently revealed that humans, not just bears, are doomed by our bodies to gain weight in the winter. The cold causes us to eat more because the sudden boost in metabolism

can trick us into feeling warmer. Additionally, the lack of sunlight during the winter can lead to lower metabolic rates and, in more extreme cases, seasonal depression. Exercise can counter many of the negative effects that winter has on both the body and the mind.

Classes are picking up again and suddenly we're faced with working too hard in the day to work out and going through too many six packs at night to even think about cranking out some sit-ups.

But here is a tip aimed at cardio rats that are having trouble finding an open machine at the Rec center after class and study bums alike — it may be time to hit the weight room.

Lifting weights increases the amount of mitochondria in your muscles. This means that your body will use up more calories than while doing your regular workout, reading Jane Austen or even playing robot unicorn. Lifting should be incorporated into your workout at least twice a week to increase lean body mass and decrease body fat.

Ideally, you should be doing eight to 10 different exercises and up to three sets of three to 20 repetitions of each. Lifting can help increase both slow twitch and fast twitch muscle fibers, which are essential for many daily activities.

An interesting, slightly cannibalistic fact: slow twitch muscle fibers make up our "dark meat" while fast twitch muscle fibers make up our "white meat". . . .

And girls, contrary to popular belief, you really don't have to worry about "bulking up." Muscle bulk is a product of testosterone and chances are you just don't have enough to reach the Arnold Schwarzenegger level of muscle without getting hopped up on some serious steroids.

That said I know it can be hard to know where to start. Honestly, if you are unfamiliar with weights or just plain terrified of the noises emanating from the

weight room, it's probably easiest to start on the machines in the cardio room. Start with a low weight and a small amount of reps until you feel comfortable with the machine. And if you have a question about how something works, ask.

Get your friends to accompany you — make it a group activity where you can encourage each other or quiz each other on biology terms while you lift.

If you feel particularly ambitious, you can always venture to the weight room in search of a more terrifying machine.

Once again, if you aren't sure of what you are doing, ask. When it comes to heavy lifting, I think it goes without saying that safety should always be the primary concern. Make sure you have a spotter and that you have stretched properly.

Don't worry about lifting the heaviest, most impressive weights. We all have our genetic limits to how much weight we will ultimately be able to lift; just because you aren't benching twice your body weight doesn't mean you are wasting your time. Lifting something is better than nothing.

In general, you should wait 48 hours before training the same set of muscles. Lifting weights creates small tears in your muscle fibers and it is when they heal that they grow stronger. This is also what causes some of the soreness the day after lifting.

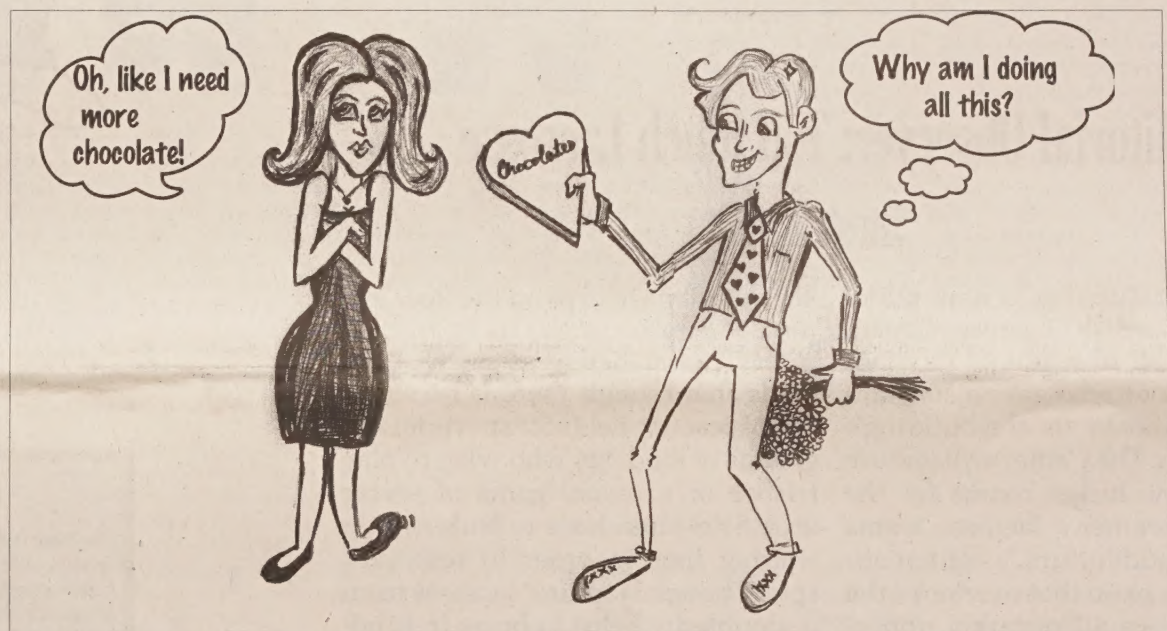
Overall, weight training is not just beneficial for attracting members of the opposite sex; it can help reduce cardiovascular disease and prevent type 2 diabetes. It lowers resting blood pressure and decreases depression.

As people age, they lose a shocking amount of muscle. If an active effort is put into training muscles this effect can be reversed, which is incredibly important for women who may be prone to osteoporosis.

Adding something new to your workout may be exactly what your body needs to keep off the extra weight. It is also a way to shake up your workout if you are bored of staring out the window in the cardio room, praying for them to put a new sculpture in the garden while running on the treadmill. Weight training is not nearly as intimidating or scary as it seems. I dare you to prove me wrong.

Bridget Harkness

Guest Fitness Columnist



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

The demystification of religious headscarves

If there is one item of clothing that is contentious all over the world, it is the headscarf (or one of its many variations). Many Westerners see the headscarf as a symbol of oppression or militancy, but what is it, really?

First off, it is important to be able to distinguish between the different types of hijabs

(coverings worn by Muslims). The headscarf is quite self-explanatory — it is a scarf that is worn wrapped around a woman's head, covering all of her hair.

A niqab is a veil that covers a woman's face with a slit for the eyes.

An abaya is a long, shapeless gown worn by some very conservative Muslim women.

A chador is an open cloak worn by Iranian women over their clothes that covers the head, but leaves the face exposed. And finally, a term that is probably familiar to you, the burka, is the entire outfit made up of some combination of an abaya and a niqab, and sometimes has netting over the eyes. These are all terms that mystify and even scare many westerners, even in our own intelligent and open-minded Hopkins community.

Women wearing different forms of hijabs can be seen all over the world, and even on our very own campus (yes, ladies and gentlemen, there are smart, independent women who rock the

headscarf!). Of course, the majority of the women who wear some form of the headscarf live in the Middle East and other Muslim majority countries like Pakistan, Indonesia and those in Northern Africa. The type of hijab most commonly seen differs in each of these countries. In Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, for example, you are likely to see many women in burkas.

In Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, on the other hand, burkas are much more unusual as most women wear a headscarf or do not adopt the hijab at all.

While some countries such as Iran and Saudi Arabia virtually force women to cover themselves, others, which include both Western and traditionally Muslim ones, currently have laws

restricting women from wearing certain types of hijabs in certain places.

In France, for example, the niqab or any other veil that obscures a woman's face is not allowed to be worn in public. In French schools, all forms of hijabs, even the simplest headscarves, are forbidden. The French government argues that the headscarf is too prominent of a religious symbol, and therefore inappropriate for school.

They also place great emphasis on the idea of the people of France being French above all else. They want immigrants to integrate into French society. They also believe that the burka and the niqab symbolize the oppression of women.

In Turkey, a country built on centuries of Islamic tradition, women are not allowed to wear hijabs in schools or in any government buildings including public hospitals. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the first president of the Republic of Turkey, had a vision of Turkey as a secular state, and one of his first acts as president was to separate government from religion.

Ataturk's model of a secular state continues today in Turkey, and the banning of headscarves in schools and government buildings is meant to uphold the separation of religion and state.

There are also those who believe that headscarves and veils are symbols of radical Islam, something that Turkey desperately wants to separate itself from as it pursues its bid to join the European Union.

But the most important issue that I want to address is the reasons behind women wearing headscarves and other types of hijabs. There are of course many cases wherein women are forced to cover themselves by their husbands and fathers, in which case we see the veil to be a symbol of oppression.

But what many people don't realize is that there are also a large number of women who choose to wear hijabs themselves, and do not consider it to be oppressive at all (many even find it liberating).

Some women wear them for cultural reasons. Everyone else around them is wearing a headscarf and they want to fit in. Others, when given the choice by their parents, chose to wear headscarves because they believe that is what good Muslim women do, and others wear headscarves

as a political statement. Some are fighting for a woman's right to wear whatever she wants (this often happens with students in Turkey and France), while others (those who the government of Turkey see as threats), wear headscarves or other forms of hijabs to show support for Islamic governments.

There are even some who, after years of living without a headscarf, suddenly choose to become more conservative and cover themselves.

Most Muslim women in America who you see wearing hijabs are not forced to, but have chosen to do so. They wish to show a devotion to God, and to identify with their culture and their family's values.

Some see the hijab to be a form of liberation, keeping them away from the prying eyes of men who see women as sexual objects. These women want to be judged not by their appearance, but by their personality and by what they have to say.

So the next time you see a girl walking around campus with a headscarf, don't assume that she is oppressed or that she has radical beliefs — Islamophobia and ignorance about Muslims are all too common in this country, especially since 9/11. Instead of assuming and perpetuating your ignorance (not to insult my readers, but I'm assuming that most of you are not experts on the issue of headscarves), strike up a conversation with her, or ask why she chooses to wear the hijab.

If anything, no matter what it symbolizes to each individual, the headscarf certainly is a good conversation starter and a useful teaching device.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Logic games, ethics games

The administration at the Villanova University School of Law recently revealed that they had given inaccurate information on GPA and LSAT data to the American Bar Association (ABA). This data is used in law school rankings, such as the rankings published each year by US News and World Report. It seems that this was an attempt by officials at Villanova to “game the system” of rankings.

What Villanova did is wrong on several levels. Obviously, lying to the American Bar Association about GPA and LSAT data to improve their ranking was despicable. However, Villanova did not only lie to the ABA, it also lied to prospective students who make decisions about which law schools to attend based in part on rankings. Thousands of students attended Villanova believing it to be

a better school than its true rankings indicate. Finally, by receiving a ranking it did not deserve, Villanova pushed more deserving schools further down the list, hurting the reputation of other schools and the value of the degrees those school’s students earned. While it was good of the law school’s new dean to reveal the deceit when he discovered it, the damage has largely already been done.

This scandal raises questions about the reliability of school rankings in general. How many other schools are falsifying data? Even if this is an isolated incident, should we really be reducing educational experience to the sum of standardized test scores and grade point averages? When so much is based on national rankings, such lack of regard for accurate and representative data is appalling.

Editorial Observer: Too much Lacrosse

Sarah Tan

This past Tuesday, a new building, The Cordish Lacross Center, was dedicated in honor of its main alumnus donor who gave a substantial sum of money for the building’s construction. The Center will feature not only new locker rooms for the men’s and women’s lacrosse teams but also an auditorium, a conference center, and a patio that overlooks the field. While we all certainly understand the importance of lacrosse at Hopkins, one has to wonder if this new facility — with all its bells and whistles — is entirely necessary.

Of course, it was the alum’s prerogative to decide to donate that sum of money to Hopkins Lax, but I do have to take a step back and wonder if alumni should really be giving so much importance to only one facet of the University. This new facility will only be able to be utilized by a relatively small percentage of the undergraduate population.

While the move will benefit Blue Jay athletes in general, opening up space for other sports teams in the Athletic Center, I am concerned about what happens to “regular” students on campus who aren’t associated with any sports team and who are relegated to the Rec Center. There are numerous times when the weight room and cardio-room are overflowing, yet there are no fore-

seeable plans to expand the Rec Center.

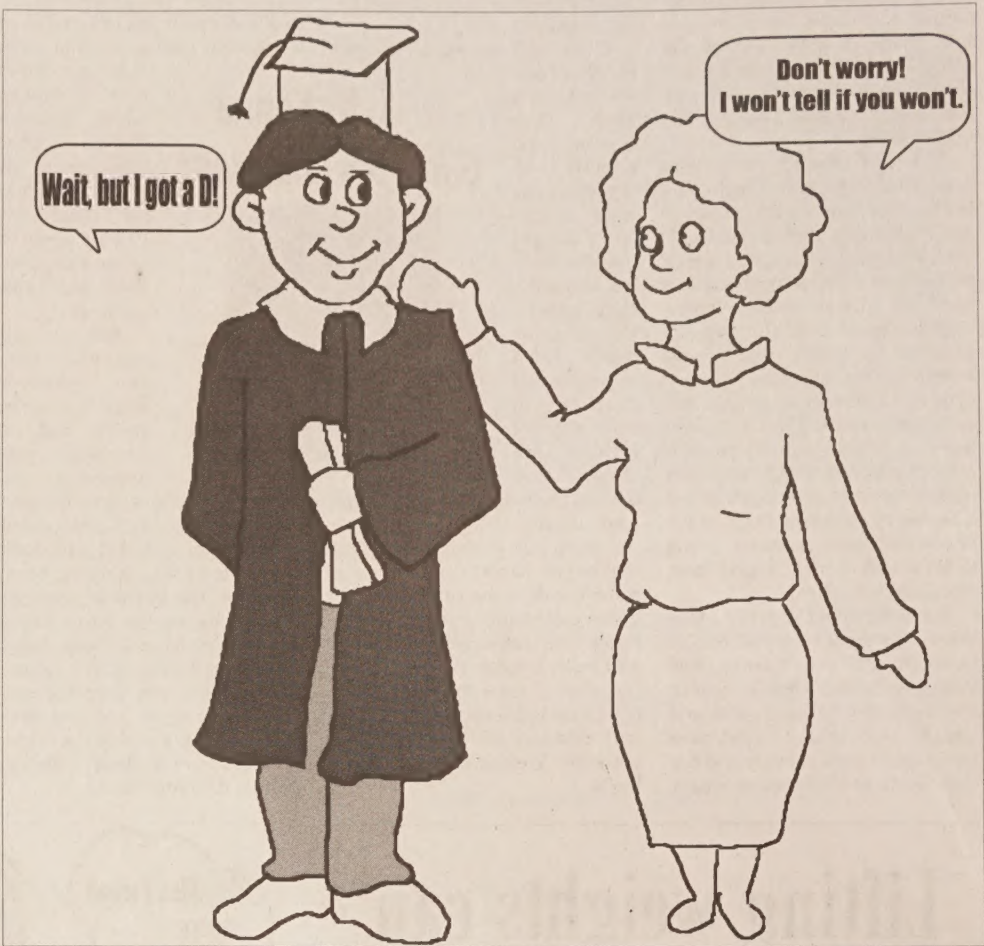
The point has previously been made that though there is no shortage of practice fields for sports teams, groups of students who wish to play frisbee or a casual game of soccer on a field often have to endure long waiting lists in order to reserve a spot. Though Hopkins’ lacrosse team undoubtedly helps to bring in funding for the University and to build up the image of Hopkins, I wonder how much of that funding actually goes to bettering the University for all of its students.

Sometimes it seems that the rest of the undergraduate body is overlooked in lieu of sports teams, especially when it comes to gym space. Though it is nice that Hopkins has such generous alumni, the project does seem extraneous and extravagant, especially given the size of the lacrosse team in relation to the rest of the undergraduate population.

The sports teams all had their respective places in the Athletic Center; did the lacrosse team really need their own separate facility, complete with an auditorium, academic center and patio?

It’s hard to not be disappointed that the donation didn’t go to a project that would directly impact more students and their educational experience at Hopkins.

Anne Faber



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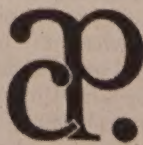
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OPINIONS

Ian Scott

Take heed, Fox News: The truth shall set you free

What is newsworthy? While that definitely depends on whom you ask, certainly there are stories that every legitimate news agency should carry. The Egyptian riots fall into this category, but should the bar be set lower? Natural disasters receive coverage across the board, as do terrorist attacks. Double murder trials apparently do not.

This Monday, Valentine's day no less, an Arizona jury convicted Shawna Forde of murdering nine-year-old Brisenia Flores and her father Raul, along with a litany of other charges. She faces the death penalty. In May 2009, Shawna Forde, a middle-aged white woman, broke into the home of Raul Flores and his family with a gunman. Within minutes they had killed both Flores and his daughter. The only way Flores's wife, Gina, was able to survive was by pretending she was dead.

Prosecutors allege — and provided enough evidence to get a guilty verdict — that Forde was the mastermind of the attacks, and planned to steal illicit money from Raul Flores's drug trafficking scheme to finance her own anti-illegal immigration border patrol group, the Minutemen American Defense. Forde maintains her innocence, and plans to appeal. However, a reversal seems unlikely, given the overwhelming evidence. Forde has also said that she regrets not taking the stand to defend herself, claiming that her lawyer convinced her not to.

Furthermore, Forde's attorney, Eric Larsen, undermined Forde's own credibility by insisting that she is a braggart and while she may have talked big about using stolen drug proceeds to fund her border control group, she would never actually do so. In effect, he is calling her a liar. One suspects he had to in order to minimize her culpability given the overwhelming evidence against her.

After reading about this conviction from an exclusive interview with Forde on *The Daily Beast*, I immediately searched the internet to find a conflicting opinion on this seemingly decisive topic. After all, many right-wing political pun-

diters have defended, even supported, Minutemen activists, calling them American heroes who are willing to take a stand against illegal immigration. However, my search was quick and fruitless.

Having checked the Fox News website, as well as Bill O'Reilly's Sean Hannity and Glenn Beck's personal websites, I found only two measly pieces of news. One is an *Associated Press* article on Fox News from June 2009 explaining the incident; the other is a link to an *Arizona Star* article, on Bill O'Reilly's website, which at least announced the verdict. The latter, while at least timely and pertinent, leaves a lot to be desired. It claims that there has been much debate over the Forde trial on both sides of the immigration debate.

have tried to distance the Minuteman movement from the terrible actions of Forde and addressed the issue of whether overheated media coverage of an issue like immigration will inevitably attract a few unbalanced individuals who will engage in unacceptable behavior.

By keeping mum about the trial, it seems to me that most of the famous mainstream right-of-center pundits have accepted this killing as a rare occurrence associated with the radical, prejudicial propaganda that causes Minutemen groups like Forde's to form in the first place.

Are we to believe that these outspoken pundits don't have anything to say about this conviction? Surely not these same pundits who can defame Obama's

everyone already knows the media is biased. It always has been and always will be. Some people say that is why you should get your news from more than one source. But the fact of the matter is that in today's increasingly complex and rushed internet age, many people only have time to get their news from one source. For this reason, news aggregation sites have grown in popularity over the past few years. This is why it is more pertinent now than ever for news companies to be held responsible for not publishing everything newsworthy.

Fox News's motto, proudly displayed in its header on its website, is: "Fair and Balanced." This is simply untrue. In the same way, people can justifiably claim that the *New York Times*, with its left-of-center views, cannot claim to contain "All the news fit to print."

I am not speaking to whether Fox News (or any of the other websites I have named) covered the actual murder more than the trial verdict, nor am I claiming that this type of partisan hyper-screening of content comes only from the right-most extreme. What I am saying is that just because the media has been doing things one way does not mean that it has to continue to do things that way.

In a sense, we in America are suffocated for the truth in the same way Egypt was when the government shut off that country's internet, albeit to a lesser extent. Just as most people rarely know they want to buy something until they see it in a store, so do people rarely know what news stories to look for without seeing them in the media first. It is never too late to improve upon something, especially something as impacting as the way we Americans see the world. All it would take is sufficient coverage, partisan or not, and leave the rest for the readers to decide.

Ian Scott is a freshman International Studies and economics double major from New York, NY. He is the Opinions Editor for The News-Letter.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

I would rather see a provocative article running on Fox News defending this horrible murder than nothing at all. There are pockets of delusional people who have no sense of the law (or reality as far as I am concerned) who have rallied around Forde, claiming she has been framed and tortured. Most notably, there is a website, *justiceforshawnaforde.com*, that tries to compensate for its lack of reliable and convincing evidence with its undying support of Forde.

There are several ways in which O'Reilly, Hannity, Beck or whoever else could have approached the story. They could have supported the witch-hunt theory like some of their even more radical compatriots. Or they could have claimed that Forde's traumatic life experiences as a foster child and a prostitute made her delusional. At least they could

budgets and lax immigration laws until they are blue in the face? This case is not all that different from the murder of a Texas rancher by a Mexican that prompted Arizona's now infamous immigration laws. Why has the Forde trial not received as much press across the board, hopefully resulting in significant legislation being passed? Sheer bias.

Either right-wingers do not consider Americans capable of dissociating this horrific action from an otherwise honorable citizen's movement or they have realized that these types of groups breed hatred and violence, and other laws they support (e.g. loose gun control) were also implicit in letting such a tragedy occur. Either way, these pundits are attempting to dupe the public simply by sweeping it under the rug.

Now, some people may say that ev-

The art of awkward: Advice for the fellow Blue Jay

By LEILA COLLINS

At a school of almost 5,000 students who spent too much time studying in high school and not enough time learning valuable social skills, there have been ample opportunities for us all to perfect our awkward "hellos." Whether on the breezeway rushing to class, or in Char Mar carrying a prohibitive load of groceries, we've all had to question whether or not to say hello to that somewhat acquaintance.

Yet still, I have not encountered a single Hopkins student who knows proper awkward hello etiquette. Given the average Hopkins student's social skills, more often than not the hello becomes extremely uncomfortable and causes both parties to recoil. So how do you handle these sticky situations? How do you deliver the perfect awkward hello?

So, you're in the FFC, balancing three plates filled with remnants of the greasy food you just ate when you run into that attractive boy or girl from last night, whose number mysteriously ended up in your phone. You don't remember getting the phone number, and you definitely don't remember sending that winking smiley face text either. But there you are, facing them dead on and you have to do something. You could opt to look up, smile, and quickly rush off to get orange juice. Otherwise you could man (or woman) up, take a deep breath and bring up last night.

Don't. Whatever you do, don't bring up last night. In that situation, definitely

walk on. Head held high, but walk on. Really, don't even smile.

However, that is an extreme; we all (or at least I) face easily over 20 awkward hellos daily. What do you do when you see someone who you know, but only vaguely? Or someone you would like

on. Most importantly though, continue walking. Never stop — if you stop you are inviting conversation.

Sometimes we, as Hopkins students, are faced with even more challenging situations. What about when you see that freshman year roommate? You

a second, show that you still care, say hi and allow for mild small talk, then before the opportunity arises for you to share the story about how you finally hooked up with that baseball player, exit the situation. Explain that you're late for class and walk in the opposite direction.

Never over-share.

This is a problem many Hopkins students are afflicted with. You may think that you connect by over-sharing, but you are wrong. Over-sharing simply makes things uncomfortable, especially if you are trying to get out of an awkward hello situation unscathed. Keep your dignity, please.

Even worse, what do you do when you see someone you know walking across Charles Street at 7 a.m., clad in the short dress and four-inch heels from last night? This may be one case where the huge smile isn't appropriate. A

smile might look like a laugh, and you definitely don't want to laugh at someone in that situation; that could get very ugly, very quickly. Instead, keep your head down and pretend that you don't see them. Walk on, just walk on.

Finally, what about when you see the person that sits in front of you in Macro who Facebooks all class long? Do you say hi, even though you have seen them look at your Facebook many times? Do you simply pretend that you have no idea that they have stalked you?

No, bring it up. Why not? We all need to have at least one interesting awkward hello a day.



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

to pretend that you only know them vaguely, but in reality you've stalked their Facebook three times and talked to their ex about their hygiene problems. You see them from 50 feet away, and you are slowly approaching. Eye contact was made 10 feet ago. Now you have 40 feet left and you have to do something.

Definitely don't start a conversation, because then you might let it slip that in reality you know them way better than you would like to admit. But be friendly, overly friendly. Yes, it will feel phony and that is because it is phony. Once you're about 20 feet away break out the enormous smile. Then use some typical greeting phrase and continue, smiling wildly as you walk

had no problem with him or her. In fact, three years ago, when you lived together sometimes you would talk to them as you fell asleep about that failed Orgo midterm, or maybe even about your fear of talking to the baseball player down the hall. But now, you know nothing about each other and it feels uncomfortable to think that you used to sleep a mere three feet away from each other.

Again, smile wildly. The smile helps to ease you into the hello. Then, stop for

Leila Collins is a freshman anthropology and political science double major from Philadelphia, Pa.

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Legalize it: Weeding out archaic U.S. laws

By MICHAEL NAKAN

Throughout history, people have always done drugs. Alexander the Great gave opium to his soldiers to dull the pain caused by extensive marching. The British Empire illicitly sold opium to China in order to save its silver reserve. In the 19th and 20th centuries, Americans could legally buy heroin and morphine, which were hailed as cure-alls in catalogs. Today, the marijuana industry helps fund drug cartels. The legality of certain drugs has evolved over the past several centuries. China outlawed opium by Imperial decree, due to the drug's immense popularity and detrimental effect on the Chinese people.

More and more drugs have been criminalized as concerned citizens look to make their communities safer. Even alcohol was banned by the 18th amendment, which remains the only amendment to the Constitution to be repealed.

These examples illustrate a delicate situation. Policy makers need to find a good balance between legal and illegal drugs. If they are too lax, drugs can become increasingly prevalent, which puts everyone at risk. If drug laws are too strict, people will cease to follow the law, like the massive crime rate borne out of the illegal alcohol trade during Prohibition. Drug laws are constantly being tinkered with to achieve this equilibrium.

Currently, alcohol and tobacco (not to mention prescription drugs) balance out a slew of illegal drugs including heroin, crack, cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy. But are the right drugs legal? Surely the most harmful drugs should have the strictest punishment, and information which has recently come to light calls into question whether the current laws are truly accomplishing that goal.

A study published recently in the journal *Addiction* concluded that ecstasy does not cause any cognitive impairment, contrary to results of earlier studies. The study examined and tested over 100 people, and discovered that while taking ecstasy was not risk-free, it did not result in significant cognitive damage. Does that mean that ecstasy should be legalized and drugs graded to be considerably more harmful on the same scale (namely tobacco and alcohol) be prohibited? In order to fully grasp this complicated issue, it is imperative to examine the comparative dangers both to users and others of many drugs.

That is exactly what UK Professor David Nutt did in his 2010 study with the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs. The study examined 16 criteria, including physical and mental health, crime and economic costs caused by the drugs. Their findings conflict directly with the current legal classification of drugs. While heroin, crack and crystal meth were the most harmful drugs to users, alcohol topped the list for the overall most harmful drug.

This is due largely to the harm to others that alcohol causes. Tobacco placed sixth on the list, higher even than marijuana. Ecstasy, LSD and mushrooms all placed at the very bottom of the list, with minimal harm to the user and non-existent harm to others. Overall, the study concluded that the harm caused by ecstasy amounts to one-eighth the harm caused by alcohol.

Why is it then that alcohol and tobacco are legal, while marijuana, ecstasy and "shrooms" are illegal? One possible explanation is that alcohol and tobacco are more engrained in Western culture. More importantly, the alcohol and tobacco industries are fundamental to the American economy. Indeed, starting in the 17th century, tobacco was a vital cash crop that fueled the southern colonies. Alcohol has been present in almost every culture since the dawn of civilization. In America, alcohol (especially beer) has matured into a multi-billion dollar business.

As the movement seeking the legalization of marijuana grows stronger in the US, policy makers need to seriously re-evaluate the dangers of illegal drugs. Prohibition was a complete failure and should definitely not be revisited.

Given America's huge inmate population of over two million, including an outrageous percentage who are convicted of minor drug charges, it is vital that America and the world as a whole realize that stigma surrounding a substance should not make it illegal.

Michael Nakan is a Writing Seminars major from London, England. He is a News and Features editor for The News-Letter.

PHOTO ESSAY

News-Letter pets and friends



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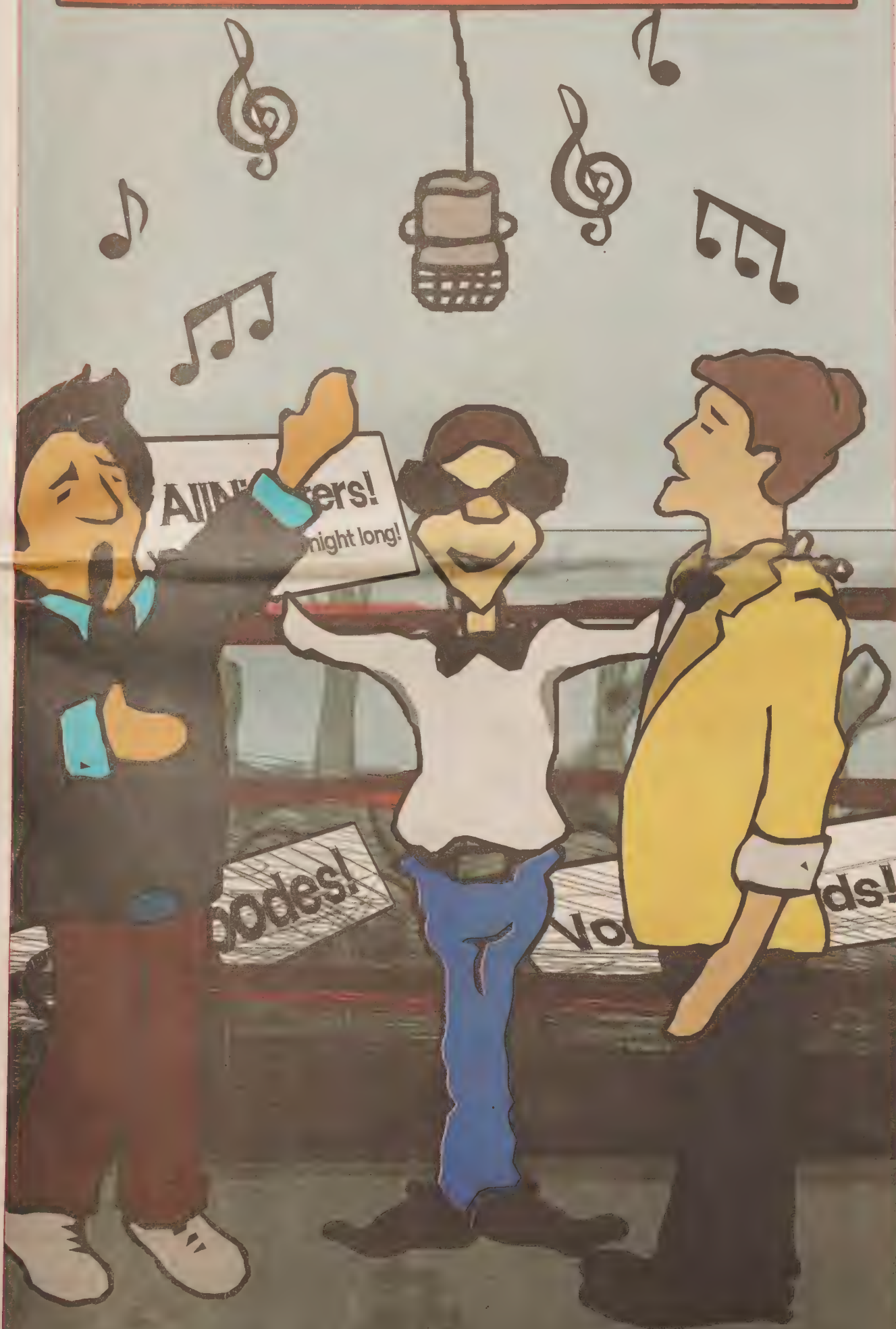
THE B SECTION

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FEBRUARY 17, 2011

**Get a ringside seat for
the ICCA Quarter Finals**



**Come out and support JHU
a capella this weekend
at Shriver, page B2.**

**Lady Blue Jays soar
into conference finals,
page B12.**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



ARTS

Acapocalypse rocks Shriver with an a capella concert of epic proportions.



SCIENCE

Check out this article before you go and get your own Verizon iPhone.

YOUR WEEKEND FEB. 17 - 20

Understanding "rude" versus simply "awkward"

The subject of this week's dilemma is one over which I have of mulled, stewed and occasionally called. This subject is, of course the elusive distinction between rudeness and awkwardness.

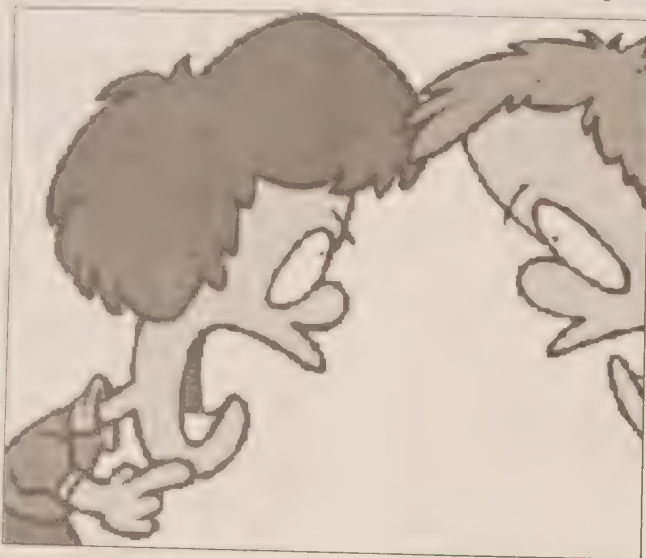
The relationship between these terms is quite similar to the relationship between the states of Wyo. and Conn. thanks to the Driver's License Agreement of 2001, which states that Conn. will help persecute speeding tickets obtained by Conn. drivers in Wyo.

You'll be fascinated to learn, incidentally, that Wyo. does not return the favor. What I mean by this is that often times, people say the phrase "That was so awkward!" when what they meant to say was "That was so rude." They rarely do the reverse.

There are, of course, particular instances of this phenomenon that I find especially irksome, and I feel it is my duty to put these thoughts into writing both for the sense of solidarity it will bring to the few, and the educational value it will have for the many. I have thus arranged several case studies to exemplify the phenomenon, outlining whether it was rude or awkward in the hope of affording more clarity for future situations.

Case Study #1: Persons A and B are engaged in a conversation in which person A expresses pride over the achievement of one of his siblings. Let's say the sibling builds rockets. Upon hearing this, person B expresses fervently that he/she absolutely hates rockets and that rockets are tacky.

Prognosis: RUDE. Out of curiosity, when did it fall out of fashion for people's parents to teach them that silence is preferable to rudeness? Yes, it's important to be true to yourself, and yes, your friends will value your opinions, but when your opinion vastly differs from someone else's with regards to something personal, such as a project of theirs or something to do with anyone in their family, that is not a good time to share! Why people would ever think it is an acceptable time



Stop to take a deep breath before you cross the line between "awkward" and "rude."

to share boggles my mind, but they still persist.

Case Study #2: Person A is in a conversation with person B and person B ends the conversation.

Person A does not realize that person B has ended the conversation and so continues to talk to the point where person B has to physically leave the situation.

Prognosis: AWKWARD. People would do well to note this is an awkward situation, a situa-

tion in which a miscommunication occurred and awkwardness ensued. There is nothing rude or mean on either side, but simply a situation which has become awkward due to the variables involved.

Case Study #3: Persons A and B are having a conversation about person C and they realize that person C has been standing there for part, if not all, of the conversation.

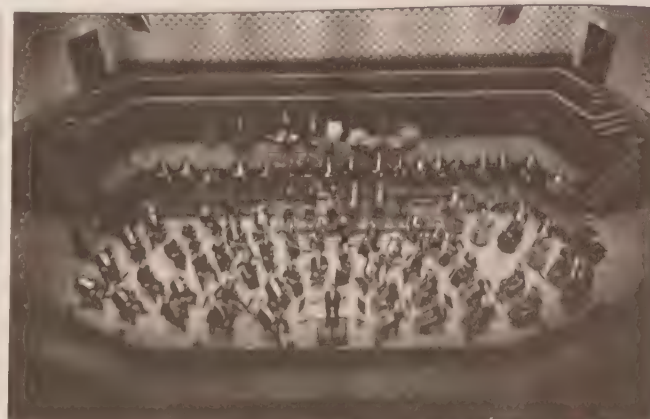
Prognosis: RUDE. This is rudeness on two counts because frankly, persons A and B, it's rude to talk about people behind their backs. But person C! I expected more. Eavesdropping is equally creepy and lame and honestly, you kind of got what was coming to you.

I think there are several conclusions to be drawn from this highly objective and methodically sound data.

The first is that for something to be awkward, it cannot in and of itself be mean. A feeling of awkwardness can certainly arise from mean actions and/or comments being made in the wrong context, but the word for that is not "awkward." It's "rude."

"Awkward" has been getting a bad rap for too long; "awkward" is stupid and innocent. "Awkward" is Golem. "Rude" is the Precious. "Awkward" merely gravitates to "rude."

It's time that people appreciate the difference and try to exercise some discretion when identifying their rude behavior as "awkward" or better yet, make a concerted effort not to be rude. To lead by example, I will not end by making a pithy remark about the state of affairs between Conn. and Wyo., but by quoting the noted Sesame Street, "C is for Cookie," but also "cooperation," and if we could all just focus a little more on those two things, life would be a whole lot sweeter.



COURTESY OF BACH-CANTATAS.COM

This city features full orchestras, jazz groups, and Renaissance music, to name a few.

The music scene in Baltimore

Finding cheap, yet rewarding musical experiences in the city

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

Are you bored over the weekend and hoping to find something fun to do? Maybe you'd like to take your significant other out for a night of festivities. Or perhaps you're simply looking for an evening of beautiful music at a low price.

Whichever situation you find yourself in, Baltimore has it all: the fun, the festive, and the beautiful.

This Sunday, Feb. 20th, there are two special musical events happening around Baltimore, both only \$5 to \$10 with a valid student ID.

The first event showcases Russian romances and Gypsy songs. This show begins at 5:30 p.m. at An die Musik LIVE. The evening will be filled with famous opera duets, arias, musical tunes, and sacred songs. They are staged and performed by three members of the Washington National Opera, all of whom are renowned for their superior singing technique and artistic interpretation, having performed in places like the White House and in countries such as Japan and Germany. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, but only \$5 for students. An die Musik LIVE is on 409 North Charles St. on the second floor.

Or if medieval and classical music isn't your idea of a fun evening, check out Bill Frisell and Vinicus Cantuaria at Falvey Hall in the MICA Brown Center beginning at 6 p.m. They will be promoting the release of their new CD, *Lagrimas Mexicanas*, which was released on Jan. 25, 2011.

This CD draws heavily from Latin and Brazilian roots and sets these rhythms to jazz improvisation from the 21st century. The songs on the album are mixed with Portuguese, Spanish, and English, much like the mash of cultures in the music backing them. Tickets are \$33 for the general audience, but only \$10 for students with ID.

And if neither of these suit your fancy? Why don't you stay closer to home?

Peabody almost always has a concert or two every day over the weekend, and students generally get a discount on ticket prices. This weekend alone, they have a voice recital as well as a Links Concert and the contemporary Peabody Camerata.

If that isn't enough, check out the cabarets at Germano's Trattoria in the heart of Little Italy, featuring different artists nightly, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Or for a slightly steeper price, enjoy an afternoon of *Jersey Boys*, which is playing until the end of this month at the Hippodrome Theatre on 12 N. Eutaw St.

So whether you prefer classical or contemporary, there's something for everyone this weekend that's an easy bus ride away.

ICCA South Quarterfinals

The top ten a cappella groups in the region will be competing this Saturday, Feb. 19 at Shriver Hall. The winners will be moving on to this year's International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella.

Three groups from Hopkins will be in the competition, so come out to support the AllNighters, the Octopodes, and the Vocal Chords.

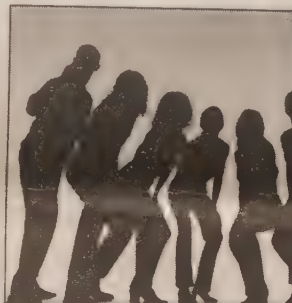
The competition runs from 8 to 11 p.m. and costs \$10 for

Hopkins students, \$12 for all other students, and \$15 for general admission.

A capella groups from the University of Maryland, St. Mary's College, Salisbury University and the University of Delaware will also be competing.

To purchase tickets, please go to www.ticketalterhative.com/Events/13177.aspx.

— Florence Lau



COURTESY OF EVENTSJHUEDU

Calendar of JHU Events

Thursday, Feb. 17

Jessica Anya Blau & Paula Bomer
7-8:30 p.m.
Barnes & Noble

Critically acclaimed authors Jessica Blau and Paula Bomer will be reading from their newest books, "Drinking Closer to Home" and "Baby and Other Stories." Both these books tell stories that explore the secrets and hidden desires in marriage, parenthood and family life. Copies of both books will be available for sale immediately afterwards, and Blau and Bomer will be signing copies after the reading.

The Microsoft Experience
9-11:30 p.m.
Nolan's

Come to Nolan's to see a presentation on all the cool gadgets and products that Microsoft has

come out with lately including the Xbox 360, Kinect and the Windows phone. There will be a Kinect and a Windows phone for everyone to try out as well as free handouts: video games, software, t-shirts and more.

Friday, Feb. 18



COURTESY OF NASA.GOV

NASA Lunar Science Institute Lecture Series
2011
1:30-2:30 p.m.
Bloomberg 272

This is the first in a series of lectures focusing on lunar exploration and science as well as opportunities for further research. Dr. Ben Bussey will be speaking about lunar poles and why they are an ideal site for further exploration.

Friday Night Films:
Kinsey
8 p.m.
Mudd 26

Kinsey (2004) describes the life of Alfred Kinsey, a pioneer in studying sexual behavior and its consequences and effects on humankind. This movie is part of Hopkins Sex Week and is sponsored by the HOP and CHEW.

The Buttered Niblets
8-9 p.m.
Arellano Theatre

Come out to support Hopkins's improv comedy group at its first show of the semester in the Arellano Theatre. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$1.

Sunday, Feb. 20

Appalachian Spring
3 p.m.
SDS Room

The Hopkins Symphony Orchestra is presenting "Appalachian Spring," by Aaron Copland, the 20th century American classical composer known for his ballets written in the 1930s and '40s. This event is free.

Calendar of B'more Events

Thursday, Feb. 17

Drinking Up the Pieces
8-10 p.m.
Baltimore Theatre Project

Rain Pryor directs this serio-comedy written by and starring Marc Unger about one man's attempts to self-medicate himself through life's pressures as he battles a two-year depression. This one-man show was a hit at Artscape 2010 and will be playing all weekend at 45 West Preston St.

Friday, Feb. 18

Chris Jericho
7 p.m.
Central Branch of Enoch Pratt Free Library

Chris Jericho, a professional wrestler, will be talking about his book, "Undisputed: How to Become the World Champion in 1,372

Steps" at this free event.

Saturday, Feb. 19

Musical Treasures from the Ages
11 a.m.
The Walters Art Museum

Join the Peabody Preparatory string ensemble as they perform traditional works from the medieval and classical periods, featuring favorites that have been embellished especially for string instruments. Works include Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, selections from Bizet's "Carmen," and Dancla's violin quartet based on Le Carnaval de Venise.

French Kisses
7:30-9 p.m.
Germano's Trattoria

Paris has always inspired multitudes of composers and singers from around the world. Tonight at Germano's Trattoria in the heart of Little Italy, Elizabeth Hart and Marc Irwin will be performing songs composed by musicians who lived or passed through Paris in the 20th century.

ry. Their repertoire includes composers such as Cole Porter, Louis Armstrong and Astor Piazzola. Germano's Trattoria is located on 300 South High St.



Sunday, Feb. 20

Classical Music Extravaganza
3-5 p.m.
Goucher College

Chris Norman of the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra will be performing three classical pieces on the flute in the Kraushaar Auditorium in Goucher College: Elgar's "Serenade," Bach's "Suite No. 2," and Dvorak's "Serenade for Strings." WBJC's Jonathan Palevsky will be hosting a pre-concert discussion at 2 p.m. in the same auditorium. Tickets are \$25.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Tiny Furniture takes real look at the perils of post-grad life

By REBECCA FISHBEIN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Ah, life after college. The beginning of self-sufficiency of "real world" otherness. The ultimate unknown. It's every college student's worst nightmare and most anticipated dream. And it's the focus of *Tiny Furniture*, up-and-coming writer/director Lena Dunham's newest feature film.

Tiny Furniture centers on Aura (Dunham), a recent college graduate like many college graduates these days, is at a loss for what to do next.

Her long-time boyfriend broke up with her at the beginning of the summer, throwing all her plans into disarray and forcing her to return home to New York City.

Alone, jobless and wielding not much more than a film studies degree and a few artsy YouTube videos, Aura moves back into the TriBeCa loft she shares with her mother, Siri (Laurie Simmons), an artist specializing in photos of miniature furniture, and her sister Nadine, a precocious, uber-ambitious high school student.

Aura tiptoes into the post-grad world with uncertainty and a sort of passive, paralyzed angst. She reconnects with a wild childhood friend (Jemima Kirke), and picks up a minimum-wage gig as a day hostess at a nearby restaurant.

She also tries to scrounge up relationships with two childish emotionally unavailable men, one a freeloading YouTube quasi-star (Alex Karpovsky) who camps out in her apartment until Siri finally kicks him out, the other a sous-chef (David Call) who

solicits Aura for Vicodin and vents to her about his turbulent relationship with his girlfriend.

Aura also fights with her mother and sister over space and her lack of it, frets about the future, and wonders whether everyone else has felt the same pressure and ambivalence as she feels — all done, of course, with a good dose of sharp-witted humor and sly self-deprecation.

A lot of films, some good, some bad, have been made about first forays into the wicked world outside university gates — 2009's

SEE FURNITURE, PAGE B4

TINY FURNITURE

Starring: Lena Dunham, Laurie Simmons
Director: Lena Dunham
Run Time: 98 min.
Rating: NR
Playing at: The Charles

The Mental Notes vs. Brits in Acapocalypse

By FLORENCE LAU
Your Weekend Editor

Had the fire marshals been at Acapocalypse, the acapella concert hosted by the Mental Notes on Saturday Feb. 12, they might have had a small fit.

The Schaeffer Auditorium in Bloomberg was jam-packed, with the audience filling every single seat, sitting in the aisles, and even standing on tip-toes in the back.

All this helped to generate the mood of excitement and anticipation felt before the concert had even started. And the reason for this excitement? The King's Men were coming!

All the King's Men, that is; the all-male acapella choir from King's College in London on their 2011 USA tour were the main event at this concert, and despite the fact that they definitely said "John Hopkins" at first (don't worry, the audience immediately set them right), they lived up to the obvious anticipation surrounding their arrival.

The night started off with the Mental Notes doing what they do best: cracking jokes and making light-hearted jabs.

This time, their jokes were aimed, obviously, at the British. They mocked everything stereotypical about Britain, from their accents to their notoriously awful dental care to the difference between teatime and dinner.

After they had their fun, they introduced the first three Hopkins acapella groups who were to perform that night: the Vocal Chords, the Octopodes and the AllNighters.

They performed a variety of songs, from Pink's "Misery" to The Script's "Break Even."

The audience especially lauded the Octopodes; their rendition of "Break Even" got applause and cheers in the middle of the song.

For the most part, their harmonies blended together well, although sometimes the harmony overpowered the melodic line, making it a bit difficult to hear the melody over all the background in the quiet parts of the piece.

Then, the hosts of the evening, the Mental Notes, performed two pieces: "Holding Out for a Hero" by Bonnie Tyler and the song for which they are famous on campus,



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Mental Notes hosted British group All The King's Men last Saturday, performing their popular hit "Enormous Penis".

"Enormous Penis."

They got a lot of laughs especially in their second song, when, other than just the hilarity of the lyrics themselves, the choir moved into an actual shape of a penis.

Although the Mental Notes have performed this song in shows in the past, it never gets old.

They perform it so well, and sing about the topic so casually, as if anyone could go around singing it nonchalantly as he walked down the street.

After their two songs came the main event of the evening: All the Kings Men.

They began, as mentioned, by calling the school "John Hopkins," as well as mentioning the American fascination with British accents (which... is probably true), but the evening quickly shaped up as they began their first song, "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'."

Not only were they singers, but also dancers, and they infected the audience with their energy as they bounced around on the stage.

Right after this song by the Scissor Sisters, they proved that they could do soft and crooning as well as loud and fun.

They performed "I Don't Wan-

na Miss a Thing" by Aerosmith. This was one of the best performances of the evening.

It was gentle and passionate, and contrasted with all the other more upbeat pieces that had been done that evening — an unexpected tender moment in the course of the performance.

Everyone knew the next song they performed — "Play that Funky Music" by Wild Cherry. This song got one of the loudest

cheers of the entire evening, because the soloist performing this song was so good and so suave that he got the audience to clap along with the rhythm of the song.

Unfortunately, that made it a bit hard to hear the melody at times, but this song is so well-known that the audience didn't seem to be thrown by the lack of audible music.

SEE ACAPOCALYPSE, PAGE B4



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Aura (Lena Dunham) strikes up a flirtation with sous-chef and coworker Keith (David Call).

Centerstage's *The Homecoming* not clever enough to captivate

By PHYLLIS ZHU
Staff Writer

Harold Pinter's two-act play, *The Homecoming* (1964), will undoubtedly leave you feeling unsettled, if not downright confused when you walk out of Centerstage.

This dark comedy, directed by Irene Lewis, depicts the return of eldest son Teddy to his childhood home and dysfunctional family in North London after having escaped to America for many years.

Arriving in the middle of the night with his wife, Ruth (Felicity Jones) and Teddy (Steven Epp) attempt to surprise his family with their return, suitcases in hand.

His prodigal return doesn't proceed quite like he imagined; Teddy finds himself entangled in a bizarre power struggle with his boorish curmudgeon of a father (Jarlath Conroy), his delinquent brother Lenny (Trent Dawson) and his brawn-but-no-brains brother Joey (Sebastian Naskaris) for his seductively attractive wife.

Fraught with subtle derision, blatant abuses and palpable sexual tension — Pinter does not hold back on his insults — *The Homecoming* is a trial for both actor and audience.

The tension among the all-male household is clear from the beginning. The play opens with Lenny and his father, Max, in the living room, reminiscing about and simultaneously condemning his deceased wife. Max waves his cane in the air — which is

both his crutch and his weapon — while Lenny lies on the couch and spouts out line after line of sarcasm at Max, as if he were a patient on a therapist's recliner.

The shabbiness of the room, with worn furniture and cracked framing, added to the irony of the play's name: the academic returns to a broken institution and unintentionally thrusts his wife into

conquests, and Ruth resists his advances in a more subtle manner, as she gradually changes from female victim to imposing mother figure and seductress.

The scene is quite powerful, as Dawson and Jones build up the tension with affected, wary movements towards and away from each other, until Jones delivers the punch line: "If you

There were some powerful moments in which the silence effectively emphasized the emotional tension of the scene and also allowed the audience time to register the depth of the family's disconnection, resentment and disappointment.

For the greater part, though, the pauses were just too much, in duration and in execution, making the play seem to drag on longer than necessary.

With the exception of Sam (Laurence O'Dwyer) and Teddy as the two characters who arouse sympathy in the audience, the rest of the family appears to be savage and uncontrollable forces that act according to their individual desires.

Of course, putting them all together called for comedic moments, in which Max's explicit violence bordered on slapstick comedy and Lenny's menacing threats came off as a lot of huffing and puffing.

Whether it was the ambiguous nature of the play itself or the performance, the line between humor and disbelief dissolved by the end of the first act. By the end of the play, the audience was uncertain of how to react, or whether to react at all.

Overall, nothing is easily placed in this Pinter play.

While the obscurity of the characters' motivations can distance the audience rather than draw them in, it does provide a peculiar and detailed look at the emotional complexities within this dysfunctional family. *The Homecoming* wraps up this weekend, Feb. 20 at Centerstage.



COURTESY OF WWW.CENTERSTAGE.ORG

Father-in-law Max (Jarlath Conroy) competes with his sons for daughter-in-law Ruth (Felicity Jones).

the middle of a den of wolves.

The web of tension shifts when Ruth encounters Lenny, and things begin to get weird. The two gauge the other's intentions and potential for danger.

Lenny unabashedly tries to provoke his sister-in-law with stories of his crimes and sexual

Turnbull Lecture presents Maryland Poet Plumly

By BRIANA LAST
Staff Writer

The first physical feature one notices about Stanley Plumly is undoubtedly his impressive beard.

Of course, the great number of audience members who filled Mudd Hall last Tuesday evening didn't attend to see the distinguished poet's facial hair. By the time 6:30 p.m. rolled around, most seats were taken in anticipation, all attendees eager to hear the poet speak.

Before Plumly took the stage at the Turnbull lecture, he was presented by the chair of the Writing Seminar's Department, Dave Smith. Smith discussed his admiration for Plumly, noting that the Maryland Poet Laureate had taught some of the best contemporary authors of the time.

This is undoubtedly true as Plumly taught at the University of Iowa and the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference. He is currently an English professor just forty minutes from the Homewood campus, at The University of Maryland's College Park.

However, the Turnbull lecture did not center around Plumly's own work, though he did share a poem of his in response to an audience member's request during the question and answer session.

Instead, Plumly read and expounded upon an essay he wrote about one of his favorite poets entitled, "My Keats."

The lecture began with an anecdote. Plumly recounted the

experience of being invited by a "cadre" of New York film critics to watch and review a recent biographical movie of the life of John Keats, *Bright Star*.

He interwove lighthearted disdain for "movie people" as opposed to "book people... and certainly not poetry people." He recalls feeling a fundamental disagreement with most of the critics.

Though he, like the others, appreciated the film, he departed from their mutual enjoyment of it in one fundamental way; Plumly was disappointed by the depiction of Keats in the film: an amalgamation of preconceived notions of the poet, void of an accurate depiction of the strong-willed person the character was meant to portray.

Plumly discussed this oversight — the discrepancy between what the movie imagines Keats to be and who he really was — throughout his lecture. He filled in the gaps that are missing in the character portrayal, and also in what the world knows about the poet whose life was so short-lived.

Plumly reminded the audience that what is known of Keats was almost entirely constructed posthumously: "He was beloved in his circle and almost obscure outside of it."

He begrudgingly admitted that his evaluation of the actor's ability to resemble Keats is perhaps unwarranted, as he noted that out of the one hundred por-

SEE TURNBULL, PAGE B5

Academy gives nods to more, but few awards

By ZACH PARKINSON
For The News-Letter

Two years ago, when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences decided to expand the best picture category at the Oscars from five to 10 nominees, reactions were mixed.

There were those on the one hand who believed that by expanding the field to 10, films that were often left out would now have a real shot to earn the acclaim of getting a best picture nod.

Oddly enough, at the time, this was largely purported by supporters of *The Dark Knight*, who felt that the movie had been denied a nomination because it was a comic book film and not "serious" enough to be considered in the best picture category.

The same complaint was lodged by fans of *Wall-E*, which despite being possibly the best film of the year, was left out of the race because it was dismissed as an animated film.

For whatever reason, Oscar voters are suckers for serious fare, even if those films actually are not that good.

Frost/Nixon and *The Reader*, both underwhelming films, seemed to get best picture nominations because they played into several of the Academy's favorite stereotypes: historical dramas, December release dates, and heavy-handed moralizing.

It was argued that by opening up the field to 10 nominations, some of these biases would be corrected and deserving films would make it in.

On the other hand, there was a counter-argument: that 10 was too many, that films that were truly undeserving would now make it in, and that this was a move by the Academy to push more popular films into the best picture race in order to increase the ceremony's ratings.

Alas, this seems to have been correct. Last year's awards perfectly displayed why 10 is a bad number.

Far from feeling more inclusive, the field felt crowded and forced. Pushing *District 9* and *The Blind Side* into the race was a sign that Academy voters really could not come up with more than five or six qualified nominees.



Colin Firth (above with Helena Bonham-Carter) is a rumored shoo-in for best actor for his role as King George VI in *The King's Speech*.

Furthermore, the already notoriously long ceremony felt even longer because of the Academy's belief that every best picture nod needed its own preview in order to build up suspense for the big moment.

But despite their efforts, another small and serious film (*The Hurt Locker*) won best picture in the end.

Which brings us to this year's awards field. While not as collectively poor as last year's group, this bunch is still not all on the same level.

Even though there is now a big budget summer blockbuster (*Inception*) and an animated film (*Toy Story 3*), neither is likely to win.

The odds on favorites are still *The King's Speech* and *The Social Network*, serious dramas released late in the year dealing with consequential historical figures (while it may be odd to think of *The Social Network* as an historical film, at its core that is what it is).

Deserving films such as *Black*

Swan and *The Kids Are All Right* are here, but they are joined by films like *The Fighter* and *127 Hours*, and *True Grit*, which all seem to be receiving nods because of their big name directors, not because they are truly worthy.

One movie that has benefited from the expanded field, however, is *Winter's Bone*, a largely overlooked film that deals with an impoverished family in the Ozarks.

Despite the fact that it is a long shot (Las Vegas odds makers currently give it 150/1 odds — and yes, they really do bet on everything in Vegas), *Winter's Bone* will now reach a far larger audience and will hopefully get a boost in viewership over the long run.

And although the unknown star of the film, Jennifer Lawrence, is a fair long shot to win best actress as well, the movie still will benefit immensely from this nomination, and it serves as maybe the best argument so far for expanding the field to 10.

But because the best picture award really does not go to the best film of the year, but rather to the most attractive one to voting Academy members, the race at this point is really a two-man divide between *The King's Speech* and *The Social Network*.

Despite some near universal assurances in October by certain critics (this one included) that *The Social Network* was a lock to win best picture, *The King's Speech* has pulled ahead and is now considered more likely to take home the little golden man.

In addition, Colin Firth has a near lock to win best actor for his performance as stuttering King George VI, as the Academy loves nothing more than a great historical performance to go along with a great historical film.

All in all, the move to 10 may have theoretically expanded the number of pictures that have a shot at Oscar gold, but despite the efforts of both the Academy and critics alike, only two films stand a real chance.

Tiny Furniture offers fresh look at after-college angst

FURNITURE, FROM B3
atrocious *Post-Grad*, starring Alexis Bledel is an example of the latter, with 1967's *The Graduate* as a prime example of the former — but *Tiny Furniture* steers clear of the "but I just want to find myself" clichés that many other après-graduation films often embrace.

Well, actually, the clichés are there because, after all, Aura is just as lost and aimless as all the other cinematic post-grads; the difference is they aren't sappy or too in your face.

Rather, all of Aura's ambivalence and sense of paralysis and suffocation feel utterly real.

The thing about *Tiny Furniture* that trumps some of these other post-grad romps is that, well, it's kind of real. A life imitating art imitating life kind of real.

Simmons, an acclaimed photo artist, is Dunham's real-life mother, Nadine is Dunham's real-life sister, and the TriBeCa loft that serves as Aura's childhood home/post-college semi-prison is Dunham's parents' real apartment.

The parallels between Aura's life and Dunham's don't stop there. Aura graduates from an unnamed Midwestern college in Ohio with a degree in film studies; Dunham graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio with a degree in Creative Writing a few years ago.

The blurred lines between fact and fiction also call into question the kind of film *Tiny Furniture* aims to be.

Is it an art piece showing an audience semi-voyeuristic slivers of an actual person's daily life? Or is it a film about a fictional character drawn from real life whose story the writer wanted told?

But what the casting, writing and setting do, regardless of Dunham's artistic intention, is create an air of authenticity with the characters and their relationships with one another.

The relationship between Aura and Nadine, for instance, feels on point; a scene in which the two fight at an apartment party Nadine throws at the loft is particularly realistic, biting and perfect.

In addition to the familial relationships, Dunham's writing is witty, clever and captivating. She unwinds Aura's tale slowly, spooling the character out until there's not one blemish left to hide, but never once leaving her unsympathetic.

There are some moments in *Tiny Furniture* that drag on, especially during the film's second half, and some of the performances — particularly Simmons's and surprisingly, Dunham's — felt pretty stiff. But overall, it's definitely a worthwhile experiment.



COURTESY OF WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Photo-artist Laurie Simmons, Dunham's real-life mother, plays Aura's mother in the film.

BMA has a hidden gem with E. Kirkbride Art Research Library

Collection includes extensive database, philanthropists' manuscripts

By BARBARA LAM
Copy Editor

A set of unassuming, tinted double doors marks the "Museum Offices" on the west side of the Baltimore Museum of Art. Inside, a receptionist greets guests, signs them in and escorts them into an extensive hallway lined with offices.

All the doors are open, and the sound of curators talking fervently into phones and scribbling on notepads echo through the corridors.

Photographs, artwork, and corresponding notes plaster a meeting room to the left that are drafts to the new photography exhibit that will be on display next week. At the end of the hall is a skinny elevator squished into the corner.

The swipe of an employee's keycard allows a glimpse of the third floor, opening into the E. Kirkbride Miller Art Research Library.

The library has been with the BMA since its inception, following relocations around downtown Baltimore to the BMA's home today by the Hopkins' Homewood campus.

It has kept intimate records of the museum's history — there are exhibition catalogues, scrapbooks and lantern slides; glass negatives of photographs that date back to the '30s are carefully preserved.

What the library lacks in size it makes up for in intrigue, showcasing the private collections of philanthropists who have donated to the BMA over the years. The "Renaissance Room," built with 17th century English paneling and surrounded by stained

glass windows, houses Sadie A. May's private manuscript collection.

Her papers are kept in glass-paneled cabinets that surround a large table and a stately fireplace.

Other collections in the library include the papers of George A. Lucas, Robert Garrett, Jacob Epstein, Dr. Henry Barton and Mary Frick Jacobs, and the Wurtzburgers.

In the archives, the Cone sisters' (of Cone Wing fame) postcard collection can be found, and conservators work diligently behind the shelves of art history books in the restoration room.

The extensive collection and its unique accessibility provide a wealth of resources to scholars and collectors.

"The greatest way a museum library differs from an academic one [is that] we are geared towards the collection and research — with a little of the business side as well," Library Director Linda Tompkins-Baldwin said as she demonstrated using Artnet, one of the several databases available on the library computers.

Artnet compiles auction records from different houses,

creating a database of prices and minute physical details of the objects sold. With a quick search, she can quickly locate and find a tiny blue and gold vase that sold last month for \$400.

This technology means that Tompkins-Baldwin mostly sees art students, dealers and researchers at the library, although the library is open to the public as well.

Entrance is gained by setting up an appointment with Associate Librarian and Archivist Emily Rafferty, or Tompkins-Baldwin. Although the library's materials are non-circulating, the easy accessibility to its records makes the BMA a testament to its role in the commu-

nity as not only a collector of cultural artifacts, but also as an educator.

With the help of Rafferty, Tompkins-Baldwin and their team of volunteers, much of the collection has become available online — but the library is still worth visiting in person.

It is an essential part of the museum's historical landscape, demonstrating how the museum not only houses artifacts, but is also a cultural artifact itself.

The next time you're visiting, open the door to "Museum Offices" to get a glimpse of the BMA behind-the-scenes and see the E. Kirkbride Art Research Library, an exhibit of its own kind.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
The British acapella group All The King's Men showcased a fun selection of songs.

The Brits invade Bloomberg in Acapocalypse

ACAPOCALYPSE, FROM B3

The next set of songs — a medley — was introduced as a group of five British singers to whom the speaker listened every evening when he was young.

The audience was thrown for a loop, trying to figure out which British group had five singers. They cheered when the familiar notes of the Spice Girls echoed through the auditorium.

A medley of four or five famous pieces by the Spice Girls were performed, one segueing smoothly into the next.

Although these were guys singing songs meant for girls, little difference was heard because they were so obviously practiced that the switch in key was the last thing on everyone's mind. Their second to last song was a tribute to America; they sang a medley of American songs from "American Life" by Madonna to "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor.

At the end of this medley, they sang a few seconds where

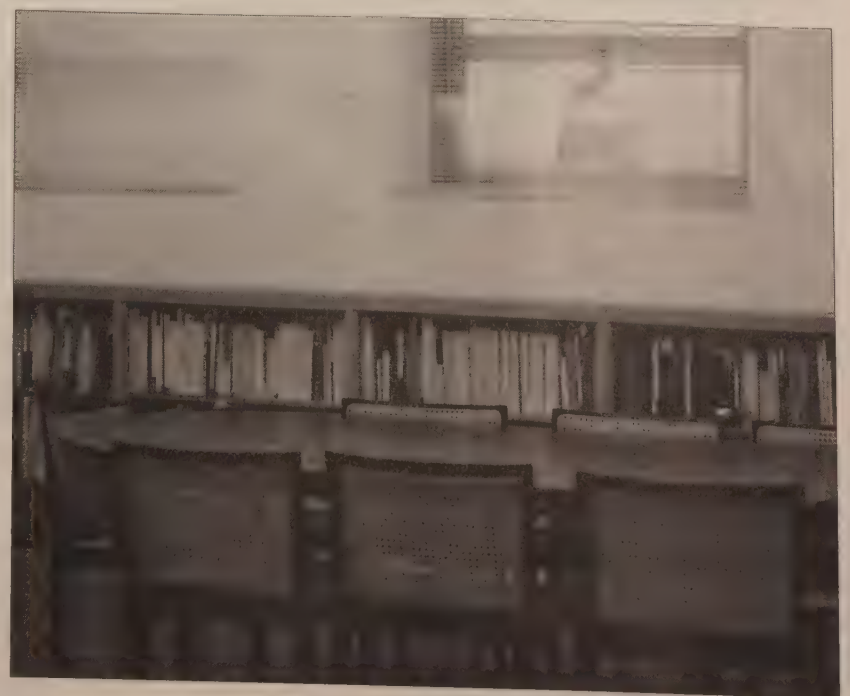
the refrains of all the songs were sung together, creating a giant mash-up of American songs and a grand finale.

The audience gave All the King's Men a standing ovation after this song, thinking that it would be the end of the concert. This British acapella group, however, surprised everyone by doing one last song — "Let's Get it On" by Marvin Gaye, to more cheers and applause.

Overall, they were very well received by everyone in the audience as evidenced by the crowds at the event and the volume of the cheers.

For more acapella singing, the ICCA South Quarterfinals, the regional acapella competition, takes place next weekend in the Shriver auditorium; come out to support the Vocal Chords, the Octopodes, and the AllNighters.

The Mental Notes will be performing comic acts in between sets. This event is \$10 for Hopkins students and begins at 8 p.m.



COURTESY OF BARBARA LAM
A rare sketch from Gustave Doré's *Holy Bible* (1866) is featured in the Walters' exhibition, *Great Illustrations*.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST
Adele

ALBUM

21

LABEL

XL

RELEASED

Feb. 22, 2011

The follow-up to Adele's critically-acclaimed 19 bears similar scars to its predecessor, emerging as a bluesy, lovelorn ode to a beloved gone wrong.

With two more years of experience though, 21 finds Adele Adkins backed by an army of well-known producers and collaborators, including Rick Rubin and Ryan Tedder and exploring different sonic territories than her debut.

The songs here are irrevocably soulful, new versions of "I Will Survive" or "You Oughta Know" for the 21st century girl obsessed with the boy who won't love her back. But there are never any lapses into cheesiness or the glossy immaturity characteristic of so many artists Adele's age; she's got a huge, booming voice that carries far beyond her 21 years, and the lyrics are rich and mature.

Opener "Rolling In The Deep" is instantly catchy with its slow-burning strums of guitar and ominous drumming, but it's when Adele's voice explodes on the chorus that everything comes together.

"The scars of your love, they leave me breathless," she sings,

the backing vocals countering "You're gonna wish you had never met me."

This is awesome stuff — not just girl power, but the lines anyone jilted by someone they've cared about would love to say. With the subtle fury of the instrumentation, this is an opener that portends an excellent album.

Adele keeps the tempo going on the stomping, seething "Rumor Has It," while "Turning Tables" (another track assisted by Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic fame) is a bare-bones piano and strings ballad laden with sorrow. For all the gorgeousness of the more heart-wrenching tracks on 21, the sassy, pumped-up, countrified stuff is still her best stuff.

Adele is a master, of course, at yanking the coarse beauty out of even the worst heartbreak, but it's when she takes charge of her own sadness that she sounds so triumphant.

Undoubtedly the best aspect of 21 is the sheer realness of it all. A whole suite of A-list producers can't take the honesty out of Adele, who explores every emotion of the heart on this collection of songs.

Even when she's begging for her lover back on "I'll Be Waiting For You" ("I'll do everything different / I'll be better to you / I'll be waiting for you when you're ready to love me again"), you can't help but be on her side as the harmonies envelop you in warmth and Adele's voice just soars.



There's no sheen here covering over the imperfection of what she's feeling as she sings these songs or puts them to paper; whether it's jealousy, rage or utter abjectness, you'll find anything you'd find in your own diary on this disc.

Best of all, this disc does justice to The Cure's "Lovesong" as the penultimate cut, turning it into a chill, bossa nova rendition that's less blatantly sentimental than the original.

It all leads well into the intense final song, "Someone Like You," which finds the songstress stalking a former flame, now married.

And yet, with the slow purr of her voice, you can't help but cheer for her, and ache for her to get what she wants after everything. Plus, the lyrics are just killer, going right for the heartstrings: "Don't forget me, I beg, I remembered you say, 'Sometimes it lasts in love but sometimes it hurts instead.'"

Overall, this is a solid album, sonically lovely, from a wonderfully mature artist. It could be better served with some tightening so there's never that feeling of predictability that can come with too many slow songs.

But there's undeniably enough meat, not to mention personality and talent, on 21 to ensure Adele an illustrious career. Sometimes all that heartbreak can turn into a multi-platinum music career.

— Melanie Love

ARTIST
PJ Harvey

ALBUM

Let England Shake

LABEL

Island

RELEASED

Feb. 15, 2011

We already knew that Polly Jean Harvey does not like to repeat the sounds and styles of previous albums, and as a result, none of her eight records sound alike.

With her newest release *Let England Shake*, PJ Harvey reinvents herself yet again.

The 41-year-old eccentric British singer, who is also a very gifted songwriter and musician, has not released anything new since 2007.

Her last album, *White Chalk*, was not such a success, judged by many critics as isolated and even depressing.

The artist is quite famous for her amazing, flexible voice; the depth and quality of her voice gives her albums an extra kick, and match her troubled personality.

With her newest release, she

comes back with an hour-long album, recorded in a 19th century church in Dorset, England — her hometown region — on a cliff-top overlooking the sea.

Let England Shake will surely delight romantic, melancholic minds, as the atmosphere of the album pervades the album.

PJ Harvey's vibrant pop is original and captivating, and almost all the songs are poignant and convey deep emotional thought.

Not to mention the long-lasting and very brilliant collaboration of Flood, John Parish and Mick Harvey.

Radio singles "Let England Shake" and "The Last Living Rose" are definitely the highlights of the album.

Their acoustics are easy to embrace and the immense vocals make even the weakest song a revelation.

PJ Harvey's *Let England Shake* is the kind of committed album that invites listeners on a musical journey and tells a story.

As the singer said on her website "*Let England Shake* evokes the troubled spirit of 2010, but it also

casts its mind back to times and places from our long collective memory."

PJ Harvey obsesses over the depiction of England at its darkest moments.

She paints with a certain crudity the horrors of the Great War that caused the country national trauma.

"I've seen flies swarming everyone / soldiers fall like lumps of meat . . . flesh quivering in the heat," she sings as an introduction in "The Words that Maketh Murder."

And the best is that, despite all of the blood and violence on display, the whole thing sounds really beautifully poetic.

For *Let England Shake*, PJ Harvey has adopted a pastoral icon for the album's cover art-



work.

The album is nonetheless modern and not at all trapped in the nostalgia of the past.

In keeping with such imaginative intentions, its music has a rare breadth and emotional power.

— Chloe Baize



COURTESY OF HTTP://ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM

Neal Caffrey (Matt Bomer) shows his FBI badge while investigating white collar crime with FBI agent Peter Burke (not pictured).

White Collar delves into the past

By HSIA-TING CHANG
Arts & Entertainment Editor

It is a truth universally acknowledged that the popularity and success of any television show depends largely on the physical attractiveness of (at least) one main character.

And nothing is more enjoyable than when television shows and their powers-that-be accede to popular demand — in the case of *White Collar*, no demand is louder or more strident than the desire to watch Matt Bomer, a dark-haired, blue-eyed throwback to slicker, more cultured times.

White Collar has certainly progressed since its series premiere in late October 2009. To recap, the rather gorgeous Bomer plays the suave Neal Caffrey, an ex-con (and he is both ex-convict and ex-conman) who has been caught and recruited by FBI special agent Peter Burke (played by Tim McKay).

Other characters' criminal escapades: Tiffani Thiessen's Elizabeth Burke negotiates the relationship between Burke and Caffrey's tension-fraught case interactions with a deft, if laughably manipulative touch.

Sharif Atkins, Marsha Thomason and Natalie Morales play junior FBI agents who do much of the case grunt work, though they still find time to make jabs at both Burke and Caffrey.

White Collar's evolution has not always been solid. The episode "Countermeasures," aired Feb. 8th, explores relationships with less emphasized characters, characters introduced in the pilot episode that haven't received much face time.

Thus far, Season 2.5 seems willing to rectify that oversight. "Countermeasures" delves into the mysterious past of Caffrey's landlady, June, played by Diahann Carroll.

June, who rescued the ex-con from the horrors of a \$700/month apartment (the cost of living in a studio at the Marylander here in Baltimore, the cost of living in a dump in New York City), had married a conman herself.

Part of that life returns in this episode in the form of an old friend and Byron's surviving partner, Ford.

Of course, it isn't merely a friendly visit; Ford returns to June's Upper West side mansion to search for a printing plate for a hundred dollar stolen from the U.S. mint decades ago.

Although the basis for the episode revolves around the question of Ford's trustworthiness — is he in New York to wine and dine June, or is he there to pull one last con? — the most fascinating aspect of this newest installment in the *White Collar* saga comes from the insight viewers get into June's life.

For two seasons now, she has played the part of maternal mentor to both Caffrey and Burke, but longtime followers of the show are just now getting into her back story.

Caffrey gets involved when, spurred by his protective instinct for the woman who took him in, he convinces one of the FBI agents to do a background check.

The episode focuses on the relationship between Caffrey and June, so that even when she is missing from a scene, the char-

acters' concern for her well-being makes her a palpable presence.

The show's director for this episode, Michael Smith, showcases the gentleness of Caffrey and June's relationship with a little dinner party. Suspicious of Ford's motives, the conman ropes Burke and his wife Elizabeth into the gathering as well, much to the agent's dismay.

The scene looks like one from an old '40s movie — Ford plays a jazzy little number from the piano in the corner and June sings accompaniment in a charming alto.

The atmosphere suits Caffrey to a T; Peter Burke not so much, though the handler is rewarded for his forbearance when the matriarch convinces the ex-con to join her in song.

Matt Bomer, whose love for Broadway musicals is commonly known among fans of his work, finally has the chance to show off his singing chops. He does not disappoint, and one can only say that the segment did not last long enough.

Though at times the acting in *White Collar* can be suspect (the actors in this television show are subject to a strange malady — Peter Burke often calls Caffrey a "cartoon character," but the phrase works well in describing at least Burke, Caffrey and even Mrs. Burke at times), the character dynamics are what truly make this show worth watching.

One can only hope that the writers continue on this vein of character exploration.

White Collar airs on the USA network on Tuesday nights at 10 p.m.

This week, you wanna turn your televisions to:

By REBECCA FISHBEIN & CHRISTINA WARNER
Staff Writers

THURSDAY:

Vampire Diaries - CW
8 p.m.

Hot vampires, werewolves and witches get caught up in a very naughty love triangle. Sound familiar? There's a reason the supernatural is such big stuff these days.

30 Rock - NBC
10 p.m.

Tune in this week to see what happens when Jack Donaghy becomes a father. To a Canadian citizen, nonetheless.

SATURDAY:

Saturday Night Live - NBC
11:30 p.m.

It's a repeat this week — Paul Rudd, with Paul McCartney as the musical guest, but hey, it's still funny. Sometimes. Work

with me here, guys. Show Seth Meyers some love.

SUNDAY

Californication - SHOWTIME
9 p.m.

Hank Moody medicates his legal troubles and familial woes with sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. Do not attempt in real life.

Shameless - SHOWTIME
10 p.m.

Yeah, it's another remake of a British show, but this one's good. *Skins*, maybe not so much. Also, there's a dysfunctional family involved. And William H. Macy. What else could you want from television?

MONDAY:

Gossip Girl - CW
8 p.m.

Team, the apocalypse might be upon us. Blair and Dan . . . lovers? Dear God, no. Tune in to make sure the worst relationship

pairing of all time never gets off the ground.

Pretty Little Liars - ABC FAMILY
8 p.m.

This mystery show combines murder and killer fashion. It sounds not good. But actually, it's good. Trust us.

TUESDAY:

Glee - Fox
8 p.m.

Last week, we watched Sam do his best Bieber, and it was . . . well . . . awesome. This week, Principal Figgins will lecture McKinley High students on the dangers of alcohol. Name of the episode? "Blame it on the Alcohol." That's right. Watch it.

The Good Wife - CBS
10 p.m.

Yes, it's a legal drama about political scandal. You could probably watch the news, but this is way more fun. And Chris Noth is in it! Win all around.

TURNBULL, FROM B3

traits that depict the poet, only four were painted of his face during his lifetime.

Moreover, it is not just Jane Campion, director of the film, but the general public who share misconceptions about the poet.

According to Plumly, "Keats is the least represented in living portraiture of all major Romanticism and the reason for this has everything to do with his belief, or lack of it, in the potential for his posthumous reputation."

However, the posthumous reputation that ensued after his death would later return to spite Keats.

Artists portrayed the poet as weak and unable to withstand criticism — perhaps an emotional reaction, Plumly posits, to Keats's fatal illness.

Inevitably, "The truth and look of who he was got placed to the side. Mistakes have a lingering life."

It was not just Keats's character that was transformed after his death, but even what he meant to leave behind.

Plumly discussed the grave of the poet — "the most visited grave, I think, in all literature."

He spoke of how Charles Armitage Brown, Keats's best friend during the poet's life, went against his dying friend's wishes in what he wanted as his epitaph.

Before he died, Keats requested that the sole words written on his gravestone to read, "Here

lies one whose name was writ in water."

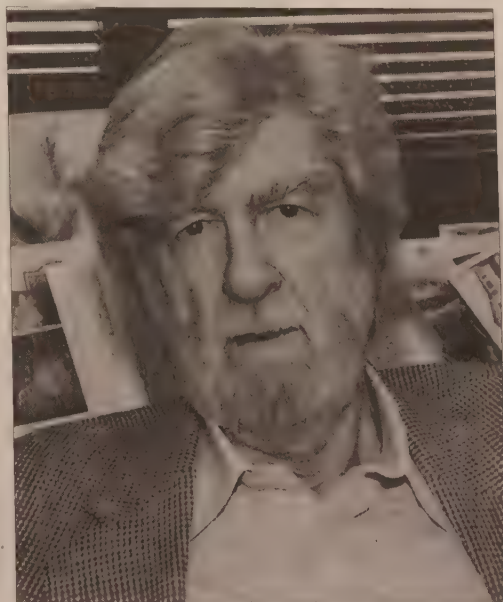
He did not want his name mentioned nor the dates of his birth and death.

He wanted anonymity. Yet, the epitaph on Keats's gravestone today says, "This Grave contains all that was mortal, of a Young English Poet, who on his Death Bed, in the Bitterness of his heart, at the Malicious Power of his enemies, desired these words to be Engraven on his Tomb Stone: Here lies One Whose Name was writ in Water."

Plumly regarded these discontinuities — the transformation of who Keats was and who he has become — as unfortunate.

Yet, even more disappointing, he pointed out, was the brevity of Keats's life and all the lost potential: "Keats had wanted to write epic poetry and then tragic theater. These tragic ambitions seemed to take too long, and life too short."

Though Keats's Stanley Plumly defends Keats against portrayal in *Bright Star*.

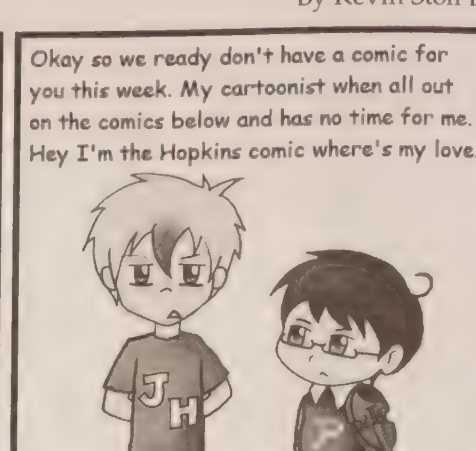
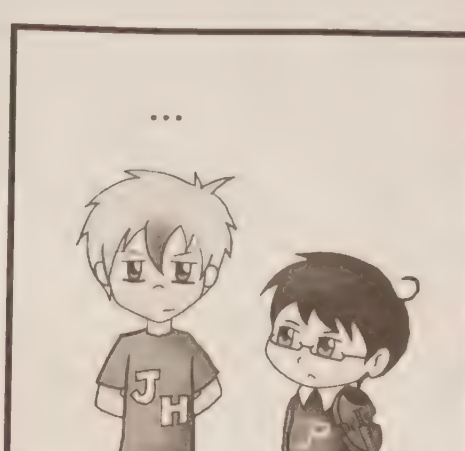
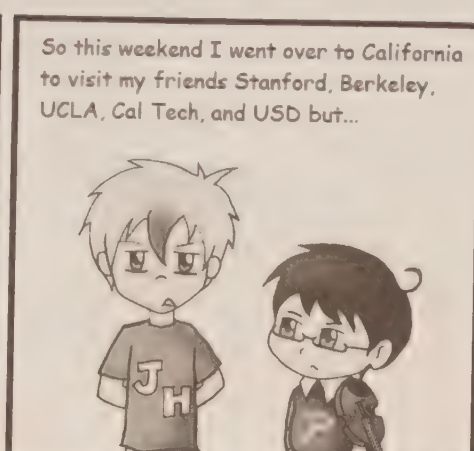
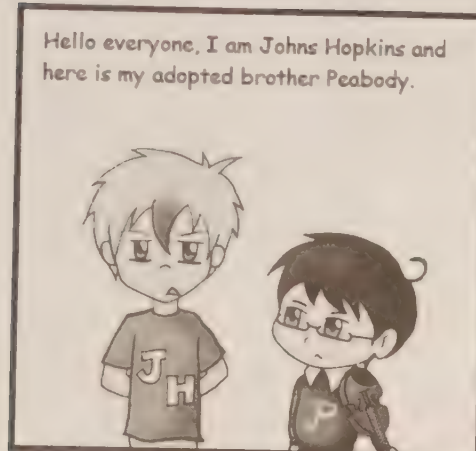


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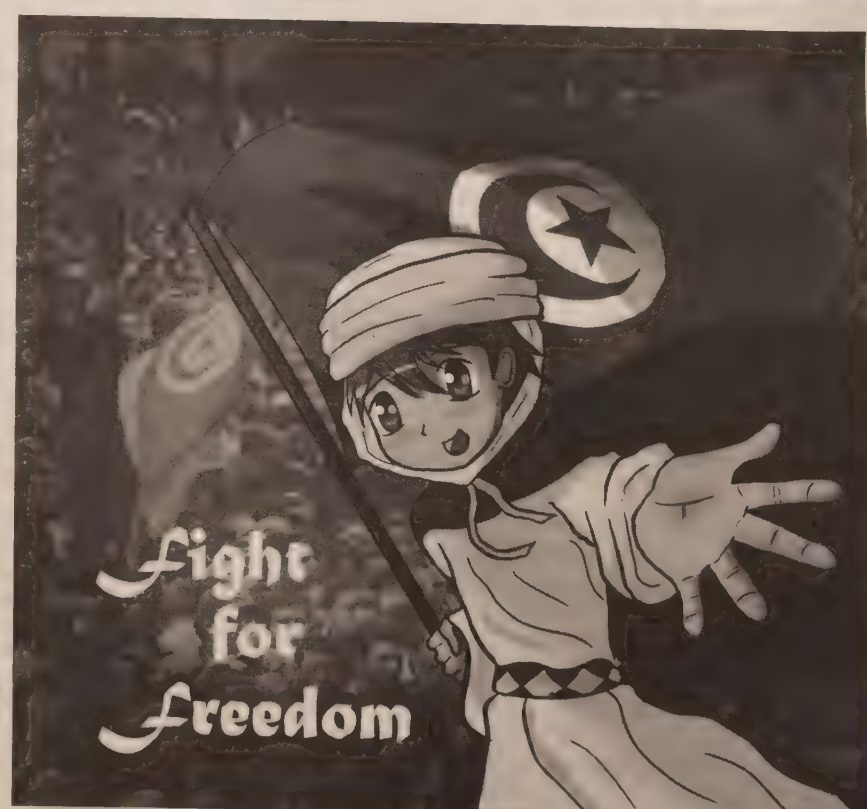
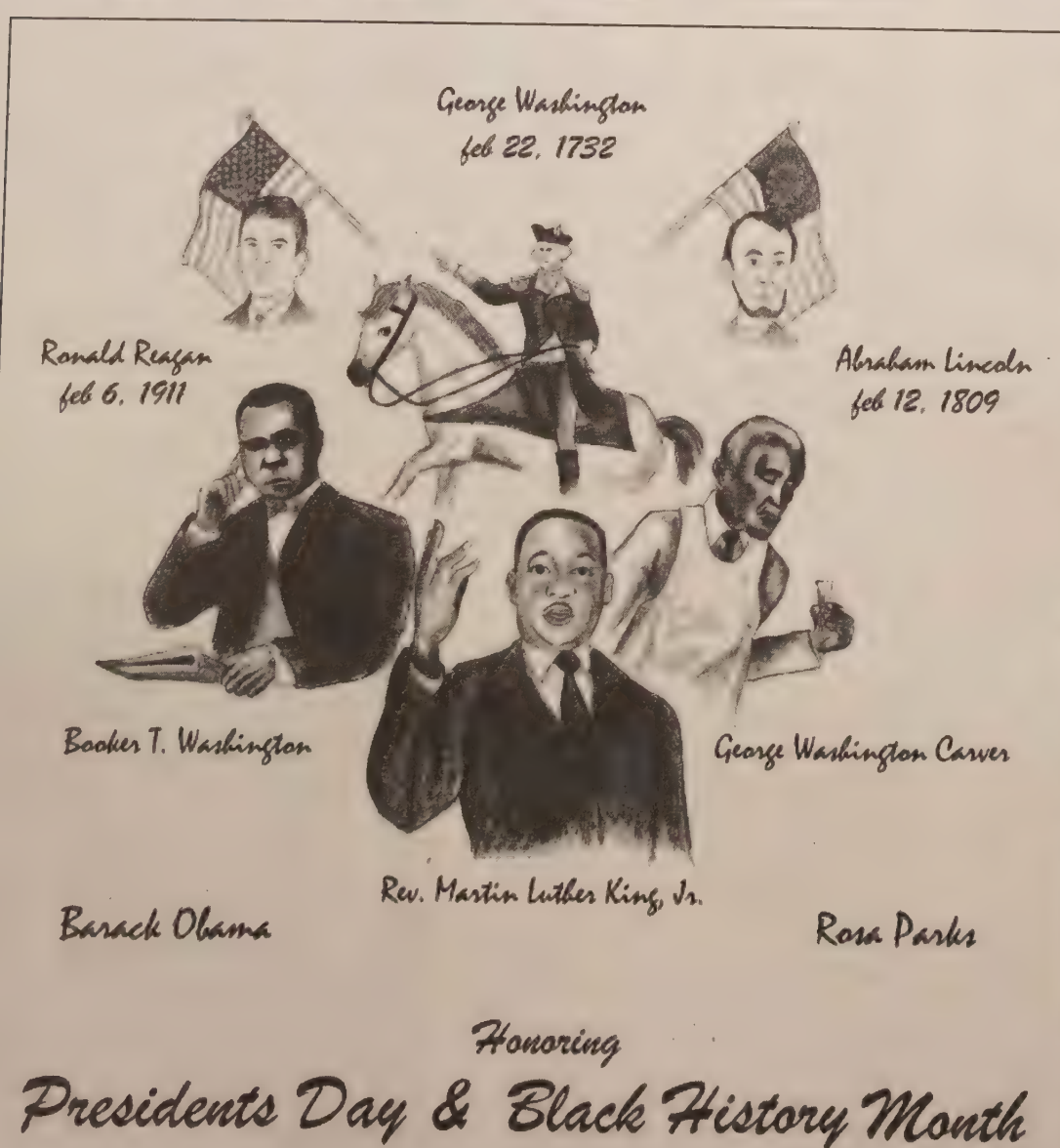
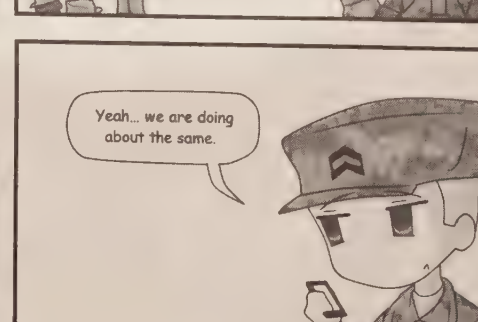
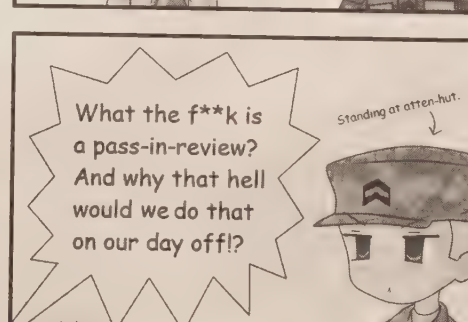
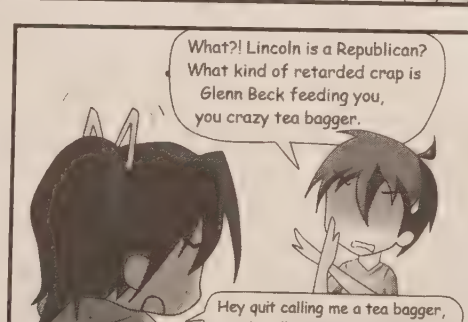
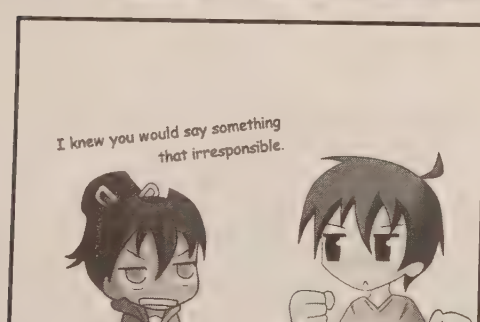
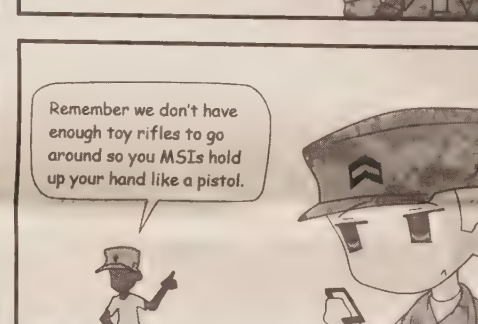
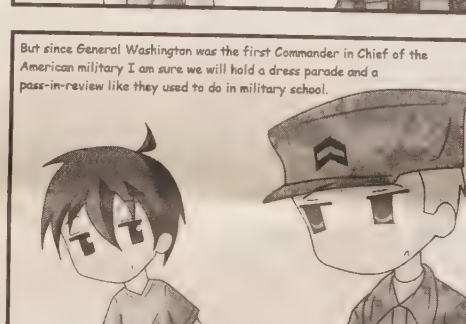
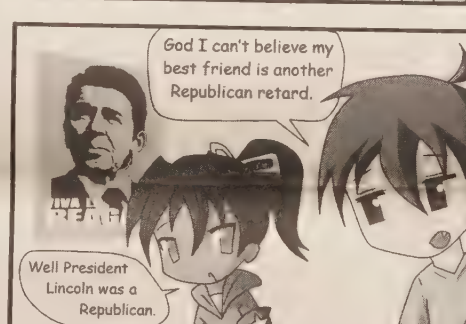
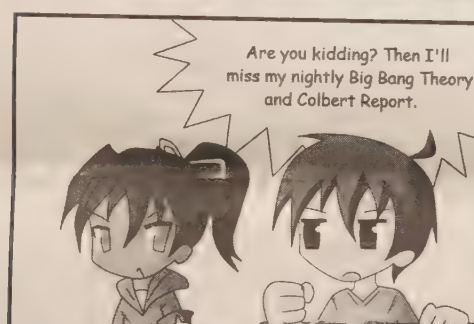
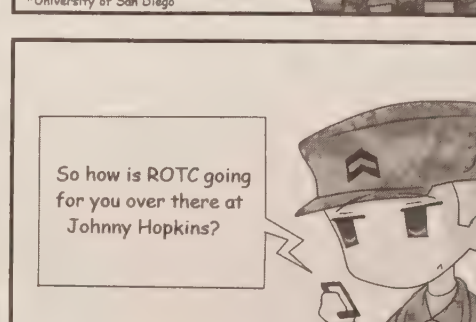
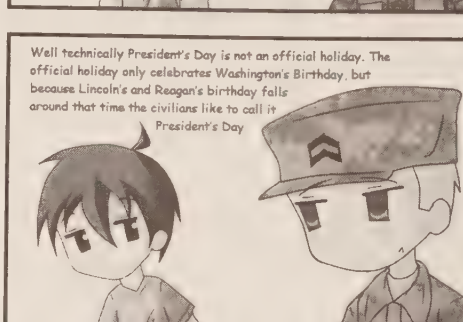
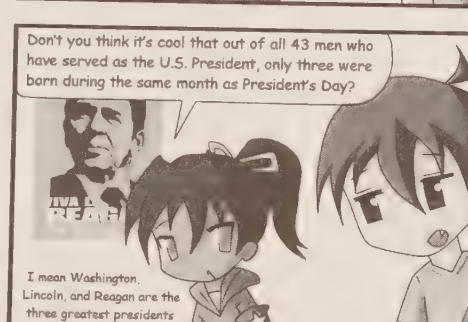
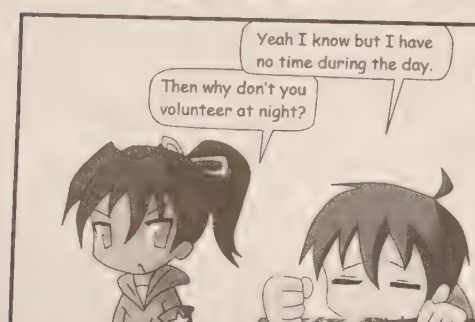
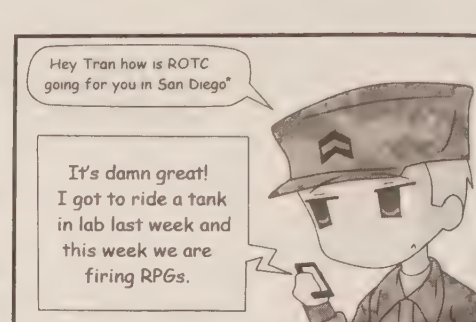
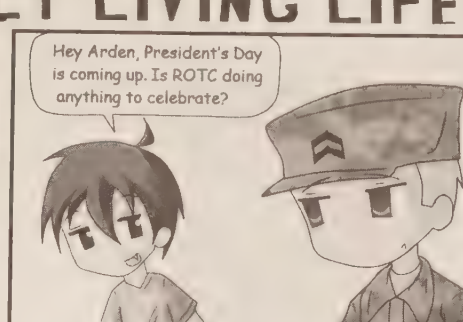
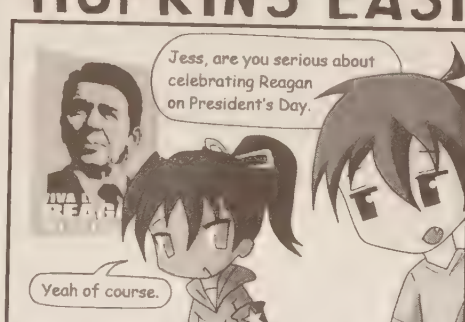
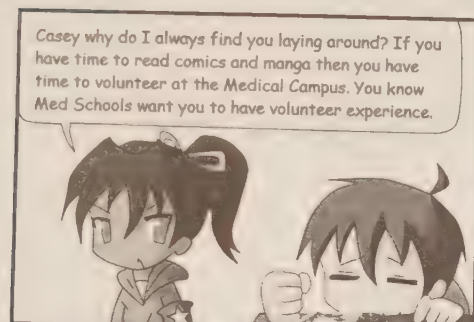
CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade

By Kevin Stoll Li



HOPKINS EASILY LIVING LIFE



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



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Psychologists have long wondered how general the brain's information processing is.

Researchers identify how the brain shifts attention

By **SAM OHMER**
Staff Writer

A new Hopkins study has shed light on how the brain shifts its attention between the external information that constantly comes in through the senses and internal information related to the individual's long- or short-term goals, and how it processes all this information into memory.

Everyday complex organisms have even more complex interactions with their environments: eating, sleeping, stalking prey, fleeing from predators, playing sports, taking tests.

At the center of all these various activities is the idea that, in order to manage all these complex rituals, animals must use an elaborate system of attentional control.

Not only must they pay attention to what is going on around them, but they also have to be able to focus on the internal thoughts evoked by memories, external stimuli, etc.

Despite the great importance of attention and the ability to shift between attentional paradigms, the actual mechanisms in the brain behind these behaviors are poorly understood.

In general, it is known that the dorsal (located at the top of the head), frontal and parietal lobes are important for attention tasks, but the specifics for individual kinds of attention are less well-defined, and the interplay and differences between the different

types of attention are still quite mysterious.

Scientists, however, are trying to change that. For example, a group of cognitive neuroscientists at Hopkins have been studying the response of people's brains when they are forced to switch between visual attention and a more internal "working memory" attention.

The team, including Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau, Mike Esterman, Yu-chin Chiu and Steven Yantis, have caught people's brains in the act of thinking and attending to prescribed tasks, and by comparing brain activity during different types of tasks — in this case, two attention tasks; one involving visual attention and the other, internal "mnemonic" attention — the team has been able to more accurately pinpoint the brain areas involved.

Benjamin Tamber-Rosenau, the study's first author, explained the team's work. "[We compared] the way the brain controls selective attention to specific items of information in working memory (the short-term, actively maintained, capacity-limited sort of memory that enables online behavior) to the way the brain controls selective attention to specific perceptual information," he said.

The researchers' results showed that visual attention and for attention within working memory shared control mechanisms. Overlapping regions of

SEE **BRAIN**, PAGE B8

Inhalable measles vaccine proves safe, effective

By **LILY NEWMAN**
Editor-in-Chief

After years in development, a dry powder measles vaccine is on the verge of entering clinical trials.

Researchers at Hopkins, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, University of Colorado, Aktiv-Dry LLC, and AVANZA Laboratories published new results in the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, on Jan 31.

The study did not test a new vaccine formula, but instead looked at the efficacy of a novel delivery system. Instead of introducing live-attenuated measles (a less virulent, but still living form of the virus) by means of injections, the study delivered a fine-powdered dry version through a mask to the respiratory system.

The new method was tested on macaque monkeys, a sample organism selected because of their similarities to humans and their ability to learn proper breathing techniques.

The researchers are hopeful that the dry vaccine can be approved for human use in the coming months.

"There's a plan for a phase one trial to begin testing [the vaccine] in humans, and that will happen in India," Diane Griffin, an author of the paper from the Bloomberg School of Public Health, said. "The Indian FDA equivalent has to give approval to be able to test it in humans so that's happening right now."

The potential benefits of a dry powder vaccine are considerable. 164,000 people are estimated to have died from measles in 2008, and throughout the world, a vaccine innovation could effect change in terms of both economic restraints and public health concerns.

In developing nations, challenges to adequate measles vaccination are significant. For immunization initiatives to be effective, more than 95 percent of a population must have received vaccines. Reaching this many people is challenging in the first place, but the current measles vaccine delivery system makes it even more complicated.

Though the dry powder vaccine only requires one dose, the



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The PuffHaler, a dry powder inhaler, was one of two methods tested by researchers for administering the measles vaccine.

current vaccine, administered using needle and syringe, requires two doses before a child turns one. Even if a child can be reached for the first dose, there is no guarantee in limited resource settings that they will be able to receive the second dose.

These are only the first of a series of hurdles, though.

"Problems in developing countries are the fact that the vaccine itself needs to be kept cold, and once it's reconstituted, then it has to be kept on ice or it loses its potency," Griffin said.

"And we're talking about a lot of tropical countries. So basically you're giving a vaccine to kids that may not work. A corollary to

that is that you throw the vaccine out at the end of the day."

Waste, and supplies in general, contribute to costs, and these expenses are prohibitive in some areas. For example, needles can only be used once and must be disposed of in such a way that they cannot be discovered and reused, because needle sharing contributes to the spread of blood-borne diseases. Providing these syringe and needle services takes money as does training and employing professionals to administer sterile injections.

"Disposing of the needle and syringe are basically barriers to be able to efficiently immunize a

large number of people," Griffin said.

Results with the dry powder vaccine were very favorable. The doses caused virtually no adverse effects and fully immunized the macaques. In fact, Griffin speculated that delivery through the respiratory system might even provide superior immunity.

"There's also a theoretical advantage which is that measles disease is a respiratory infection. And measles itself gives fantastic immunity to re-infection . . . Maybe when you have virus replication in the respiratory tract or in the lungs [it] induces a more natural immunity."

Proximity to highways raises asthma risk

By **ALEENA LAKHANPAL**
Staff Writer

William Checkley of the Hopkins Center for Global Health has been studying situations in which pollutants exacerbate the symptoms of children's asthma.

In his latest study, Checkley found that the closer children live to highways, the more likely they are to develop asthma. Children all across the world suffer from asthma to varying degrees, but all too often, poor environmental conditions aggravate their condition.

For several years, Checkley and his team have collected and analyzed data from an impoverished shantytown population near Lima, Peru. The area is geographically ideal to his most recent project, which has been to elucidate the effects of traffic pollution on adolescent asthma.

The shantytown is located close to the main avenue that runs through Lima, and although there are other minor roads crossing the city, none produce nearly as much traffic as the single highway.

"We chose this place because there is basically no traffic other than this main avenue," Checkley said. "There are no industrial sources of pollution nearby, so this gave us a unique place for studying traffic-induced asthma. Obviously this was a single source of traffic-related pollution."

Because of his team's long-standing relationship with the community, they were able to expedite several preliminary processes.

"We keep a study of about 40 to 60 thousand people," said Checkley. "We maintain and update a census, so it is easy for us to obtain samples."

For this particular project, Checkley and his colleagues chose a random sample of 700 adolescents from the shantytown. They used questionnaires and clinical allergy skin tests before and after treatment with asthma-alleviating bronchodilators.

They were looking for a response to the medication, specifically

reversibility of the asthmatic symptoms and improvement in lung function after giving the participants the inhaled medication. In addition, Checkley used GPS tracking to calculate perpendicular and actual distances of the children's homes from the main avenue.

Checkley and his team found that the instances of asthma and allergic reactions rose as distance from the main road decreased. Allergic reactions, or atopy, was an important measure of the adolescents' health.

"Allergic disease is a well-known factor for asthmatic disease," explained Checkley. "Basically, they [the participants] have an increase in blood serum IgE and this increases the inflammatory response. In any population where you see an increase in atopy, you will see an increase in asthma."

Other factors can also affect one's chances at contracting asthma, including weight and smoking habits. Checkley accounted for such factors using interviews and questionnaires.

"Obesity is related to asthma — a higher body mass index means a higher likelihood," said Checkley. "Smoking is related to asthma in several ways and is one huge risk factor from both personal and secondhand smoke."

Not only does smoking increase one's chances of suffering from asthma, but the addictive habit can also decrease the ef-

fectiveness of inhaled corticosteroids, such as those that Checkley's team administered to the participants.

Checkley ensured the honesty of the adolescents by asking them about their smoking habits only when their parents were absent. "We have to have parental consent for everything, but they were more comfortable when the parents were not around," said Checkley.

While the shantytown in Lima provides an ideal place for studying a single source of traffic pollution, Checkley has replicated his results in other parts of Peru.

"Shantytowns are 60 percent of Lima — our data is representative of Lima as a whole, but there are some areas of higher density," Checkley said.

However, he hopes that traffic can be regulated such that children's asthma can be reduced. "Politicians need to be made aware of these things," he said. "There is a lot of unregulated traffic and a specific situation where there is no public transportation system per se."

Checkley believes that the problem with public transportation provides the Peruvian government with an opportunity for intervention. "Reduce or curb the unregulated traffic, organize it a little bit better and think more carefully about public transportation needs, especially for large cities like Lima, which has 10

SEE **PERU**, PAGE B9

Frequent Amazon droughts worry scientists

By **ANNE MCGOVERN**
Staff Writer

Last year, the Amazon forest experienced its second drought in five years. Both the 2010 and 2005 droughts were not severe, but their timings were unusual. These droughts, which should occur only once in a century, are happening at a much greater rate.

Simon Lewis, a forest ecologist at the University of Leeds in Great Britain, and his colleagues are studying the details of these droughts in an attempt to understand why they are happening so frequently and what implications they have for the rest of the planet.

Lewis and his colleagues measured the intensity of both droughts using satellite rainfall data and calculated the climatological water deficit (MCWD). This number, which correlates to tree mortality, indicates the amount of water stress on forest trees.

They found that in 2005, 37 percent of the Amazon received low rainfall and water stress during the dry season; in 2010, the forest experienced low rainfall in 57 percent of its area.

The droughts themselves were not catastrophic. However, the fact that they occurred so close together is worrisome.

"This is what's quite alarming — that we've seen these two very unusual events," Lewis said in an interview with NPR.

Various global circulation models (GCMs) foreshadowed an increase in Amazon droughts due to increasing Pacific and Atlantic sea surface temperatures, as a result of anthropogenic green-



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The second drought in the Amazon in five years is caused by changes in global circulation.

house gas emissions. In turn, the increase in sea temperature may cause El Nino Southern Oscillation activity and a northwest displacement of the intertropical convergence zone. The intertropical convergence zone is where winds from the northern and southern hemispheres collide.

The net result is a movement of moisture northwards, robbing the Amazon of a large portion of the rainfall it usually receives during the year. This in turn dries out the forest, causes droughts, and accelerates climate change.

Forests act as carbon sinks. Trees pull carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, store it in their leaves and trunks, and then release oxygen. This process, called carbon sequestration, helps to mitigate climate change.

Large forests like the Amazon

are very crucial sinks. Losing them would allow more carbon dioxide to linger in the atmosphere and consequently warm the planet. In addition, droughts will cause many trees to die.

"As these dead trees rot [they] release their carbon in their trunks and roots into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide," Lewis told NPR. "Then we see it probably turning into a source of carbon emissions."

If the frequency of drought weather increases in the Amazon, the forest will begin to adapt and grow trees more suited to dry weather.

Dry-weather trees tend to be thinner, smaller and less able to sequester carbon from the atmosphere. Also, these types of trees are more susceptible to forest fires. Scientists like Lewis are worried for the Amazon forest's future.



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The researchers studied asthma in children and teenagers living in a shantytown in Lima, Peru.

Universe's first stars were not short-lived loners

Stem cells generated through novel method

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

Researchers at Germany's Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics have found that the universe's first stars did not lead solitary lives, as was the previously commonly held belief.

Using a series of numerical simulations, the researchers showed that primordial stars were often members of tight multiple-star systems. This was contrary to the previously held belief that they existed as singular massive stars, or as part of a binary-star system encompassing a large distance.

Previous simulations concluded that the primordial gas from which stars were created was allowed to cool by Hydrogen gas.

The primordial gas was then broken up into "baryonic cores" of cooled gas, each core containing its own gravitational force, with masses approximately 1000 times that of the Sun.

Each of these cores had the potential to form one star of massive size in the range of 30 to 300 times the mass of the Sun. These stars could also break into two parts. Both have the potential to condense and develop into another star. The remaining gas then organized into a disc that would encircle the newly-formed star.

But the simulation performed by astrophysicists in Germany, with contributions by American scientists from Stanford and the University of Texas, has increased the understanding of astrophysicists beyond the formation of the initial star (or protostar) and its accompanying disk.

Their results corresponded to the previously established standards up to the formation of the protostar and the disc. By focusing on activity inside the disc, however, the scientists were able to simulate occurrences later on.

They found that the gas in the disc surrounding the protostar collapsed further into high-density regions.

By replacing these regions with "sink particles" instead of collapsed gas, the simulation was allowed to progress further in time. They found that the disc grew quickly, doubling in

size over 90 years and adopting a two-arm spiral pattern, which is common in simulations of contemporary star formation.

Eventually the gas in one of the arms became so unstable that it collapsed to form a second protostar. Several conditions were necessary for the formation of this second star from the disc and any future stars.

First, the region must fragment from the disc and its density must increase high enough that it becomes unstable and collapses. Second, the collapsed gas must be able to rid itself of heat released by the collapsing process. Finally, this must be done before motions in other regions of the disc rip the potential star-forming region apart.

In the simulation the researchers performed, a third star formed just four years after the second. 15 years after this event, fragmentation was occurring so rapidly that protostars were forming into a confusing multiple-star system.

The researchers speculated that the system would reach a point where the heat generated by multiple stars would cause Hydrogen gas, the major coolant, to disassociate.

Finally, the system would continue to absorb more primordial gas until one of the stars was hot enough to ionize all of it, after which addition of the gas would stop.

The researchers were careful to produce a simulation that followed the path of other simulations involved in primordial star formation. They found that theirs was "remarkably similar" to other simulations that did not advance beyond the disc formation and first protostar formation stage. Their simulation took into account previous data and simulations performed by other astrophysicists.

Meanwhile, the search is on for primordial stars that have been able to survive until the present day. The current formation of similar multiple-star systems leads to the ejection of small stars from the system.

If primordial systems functioned in the same way, it is possible, as the researchers conclude in their article, that "some of these stars may have had masses low enough for them to have survived until the present day."

By IAN YU
Staff Writer

Researchers at Hopkins have designed a new, potentially safer method of generating pluripotent stem cells from blood cells.

While scientists have been able to derive pluripotent stem cells from differentiated cells like skin, researchers are far from being able to use these cells in clinical applications.

The use of these cells continues to face many hurdles. In particular, induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) can become cancerous, effectively doing more harm than good for the patient.

However, recent work by researchers at the Hopkins School of Medicine has overcome this challenge.

Members of the Cheng Laboratory, part of the Stem Cell Program in the Institute for Cell Engineering, have developed a new method of changing differentiated human cells into iPSCs by introducing certain regulatory genes.

Circular DNA containing the desired regulatory genes are directed into the cells by electroporation. In a departure from current methods, the researchers prepared their iPSCs from blood cells.

Having successfully converted the blood cells into stem cells, the team was then able to subsequently differentiate iPSCs into other types of cells. The group's paper was published last month in the journal *Cell Research*.

Studies of pluripotent stem cells have focused on their potential applications in the field of regenerative medicine.

By inducing cells from any part of the body, such as skin or blood cells, to change into another type, these cells have the potential to create new tissues and organs.

Previous work in generating iPSCs relied on the use of viruses to introduce a plasmid containing the necessary genes to reprogram the cell, which involves switching on and off certain genes that are used by specific cells.

First developed in 2007, this method of turning specialized cells into stem cells has one glaring issue should these cells be applied to regenerative medicine: virus-transformed iPSCs have a tendency to form tumors. To overcome this, the group uti-



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Earlier methods of generating induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) used fibroblasts, a common cell found in the skin.

lized a different approach.

One other common method in the realm of genetics and cell biology, electroporation, applies a small voltage across the membrane of cells to make them permeable to larger molecules by opening up larger pores. In this case, a circular piece of DNA is able to enter the cells through these openings, which close up after the cells are given time to heal.

The Cheng Laboratory utilized non-integrating plasmids, ones that remain separate from the rest of the cell's genome, to introduce the new genes.

"Integrating plasmids will insert into human genome and may lead to unexpected results in the future, like tumor formation. On the other hand, non-integrating plasmids won't incor-

porate with human genome," writes Bin-Kwan Chou, graduate student of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the Hopkins School of Medicine and member of the Cheng Laboratory, in an email to *The News-Letter*.

After a number of rounds of replication, the group found that the iPSCs eventually lost the inserted circular DNA. However, the cells maintained the physiological changes induced during transformation.

The major test for whether a cell has been successfully reprogrammed as a pluripotent stem cell is their ability to differentiate into other types of cells that may not even be remotely related in function to their original form.

According to Chou, one method is to allow the cells to cluster together and differenti-

ate on their own accord.

"One of the simplest ways is to culture iPSCs in suspension then form embryoid body (EB). It is like a sphere and cells will differentiate to different cell types," he writes.

Researchers also overcame several other challenges; specifically, the team streamlined the cell culturing process. Fibroblasts are the most commonly used cells in producing iPSCs, yet they require extensive culturing; establishing a cell culture of fibroblasts takes weeks after extracting them from a donor biopsy.

In contrast, the researchers were able to transform adult and umbilical blood in 14 days, presenting a time-saving benefit that can greatly reduce the lead time involved in future iPSCs studies.

Weight counseling shows racial bias

By BARBARA HA
Staff Writer

Over the past twenty years, there has been a dramatic increase in obesity in the United States. Studies have shown that blacks are disproportionately impacted by obesity — 44 percent of black adults are obese compared to 33 percent of white adults.

A new study from the Bloomberg School of Public Health examined the role of patient-physician communication in the observed racial disparity and found that black patients were less likely to receive exercise and weight-reduction counseling when they visit the doctor.

Obesity, defined as a BMI greater than or equal to 30, also constitutes a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, certain types of cancer and type II diabetes. Obesity is estimated to cost 147 billion dollars annually and is associated with annual medical costs which are 42 percent higher than among healthy weight individuals.

Increasing evidence shows that the care given for obesity is second-rate for many African American patients. For instance, most obese patients do not receive an obesity diagnosis when they visit their doctor.

Research shows that one of the most important factors that can improve obesity care is patient-physician communication. For instance, one study shows physicians are more likely to believe their patients when they say that they are trying to lose weight or exercise regularly if they are not obese.

Studies from 2003-2006 show that the proportion of obese adults told that they were overweight was significantly lower for blacks than for whites; this may be explained by suboptimal obesity care for blacks.

Increasing attention has been directed towards one factor that may cause poor communication race concordance between patients and clinicians — race concordance.

Previous studies have shown that patients in race-concordant relationships with their physicians, or patients who have doctors who

are the same race as they are, receive better quality of care, have longer visits and more participatory decision-making, more timely receipt of treatment, greater use of needed medical services, less delay in seeking care, more preventative care and greater patient satisfaction with their provider and healthcare.

A group of researchers, led by Sara N. Bleich, assistant professor of Health Policy and Management at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, sought to explore these relationships specifically focusing on obesity care.

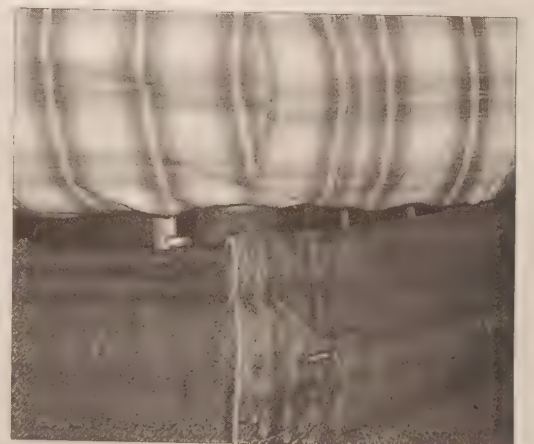
Using data obtained from the 2005-2007 National Ambulatory Medical Care Surveys (NAMCS), the team analyzed over 22,000 patients over the age of 20 who were seeing physicians in the specialties of general or family practice and general internal medicine.

The results revealed that race concordance did not play a significant role in determining the quality of obesity care among patients.

Overall, the study showed that visits by black patients include less exercise counseling than visits by white patients when they see white doctors and less weight-reduction counseling than white patients when they see black doctors.

"It totally surprised me," Bleich said in an interview with the *Baltimore Sun*. "I went in thinking race concordance would matter. Some studies say it has a positive impact; some say it's negative. But my sense was that it would matter. But what was surprising was if you are a black, obese patient, you are less likely in general to get care, and that was really discouraging."

Besides race concordance,



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Obesity affects almost half of all black adults in the United States.

which proved to be insignificant, several reasons were proposed for why black, obese patients might receive less obesity care than white, obese patients.

Some studies suggest that physicians hold more negative perceptions about likelihood of adherence, engagement in risk behaviors, and social resources available to black patients.

On the other hand, the low rates of weight-reduction counseling among black patients seeing black physicians may also reflect black physicians' efforts to be culturally sensitive to their black patients. Some studies cite that blacks and whites hold different views of body image and perceptions of overweight and obesity statuses.

Physicians also just may not be getting enough training or resources to provide weight-related counseling to their obese patients, regardless of race.

The finding of low rates of weight-related counseling may be a reflection of general physician stigma toward obesity as well as lower physician respect toward patients with a higher BMI.

Furthermore, other factors including the patient's gender, age and comorbidity risk status as well as characteristics of the clinical encounter such as type of visit, and time spent with the doctor can influence the physician's decision to give weight-related counseling.

Brain screens data based on its desires

BRAIN, FROM B7

the brain were active during the two processes.

"However, when we used newer analysis techniques that are sensitive to the fine-scale spatial pattern of brain activation within activated brain regions, we found that what seem to be general-purpose brain regions are working in subtly different ways on the two kinds of information," Tamber-Rosenau said.

It may not come as a surprise that the areas involved in both tasks are much the same: the medial superior parietal lobule (mSPL), the intraparietal sulcus (IPS) and the superior frontal sulcus and gyrus (SFS) are all implicated in attention tasks.

However, as Tamber-Rosenau noted, the response patterns were not exactly the same between tasks. This suggests that, even though the same brain areas are recruited for similar at-

tention tasks, neuronal populations within those areas may be more specialized for one type of attention versus another (ie: visual versus working memory).

The distinction between these two tasks is important: one involves attending to the outside world via visual stimuli, and the other involves working mentally to solve some type of problem or keep track of information.

However, Tamber-Rosenau, Yantis and their colleagues aren't exactly surprised by the overlapping functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) results.

"In fact," Tamber-Rosenau said, "mSPL appears to play a more general role in attentional control that is not specific to one perceptual modality or kind of information." This explains this brain area's central role in the current findings.

The specific tasks patients were asked to perform include

monitoring, alternatively and based on cues within the stimuli themselves, two on-screen letter streams which sometimes also contained cue letters which signaled for participants to focus internally on their working memory for two internal counts.

Thus, by asking participants to focus their attention in these ways and by monitoring when switches in attention were made (as reported by the participants themselves), the team was able to use fMRI to assess which parts of the brain were active during which parts of the various tasks.

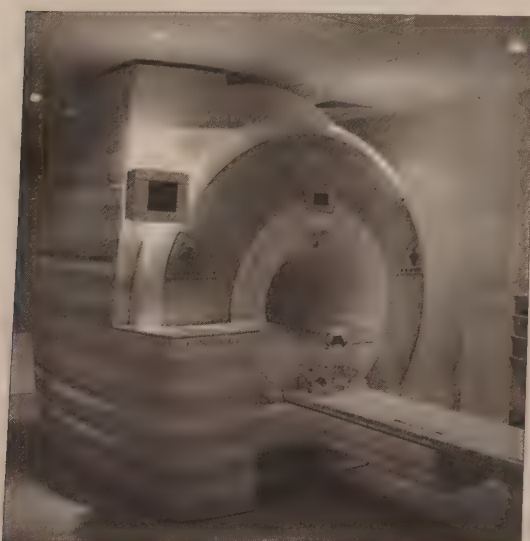
And by comparing activity in each task to other tasks to control for certain baseline brain activity, the team has been able to verify the aforementioned areas (the medial superior parietal lobule, the intraparietal sulcus and the superior frontal sulcus and gyrus) as crucial for this attention-switching task.

Understanding attention is not only scientifically interesting, but can reveal how the brain works normally or why dysfunction occurs when something like trauma, drugs or disease has disrupted the normal routines of the brain.

"This work is a microcosm of a question that has been of interest to psychology, in some form or another, for at least decades: how specific- versus general-purpose are the information processing mechanisms in the brain."

"This study won't answer the question outright, but it is one more brick in the foundation of our understanding," Tamber-Rosenau said.

Tamber-Rosenau and his colleagues' work provides insight about attention — an important step towards filling in the landscape of what is known about attention both normally and pathologically and is likely only a stepping stone to a more complete understanding of the complexities of human thought and behavior.



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fMRI was used to follow brain activity throughout the study.

A case study of asthma in Lima, Peru

PERU, FROM B9 million people," he suggested. He mentioned some places that have made progress in controlling traffic, such as Santiago, Chile and Mexico, where it is actually illegal to circulate cars for one day each week.

In terms of the study itself, Checkley wants to determine the source of pollution and the exact pollutants that are making the children sick.

For example, Checkley is looking at NO₂ and diesel-related particles. He plans to study how these emissions have negative effects on oxidative stress. He is also interested in gene-environment interaction since the researchers discovered that not everyone close to the avenue has asthma.

"Epigenetics has become a new interest," said Checkley. "We are looking at how methylation of genes can mold your phenotype and trying to see if there's any change in methylation as you get closer to the road."

While genomics would provide a wealth of information about asthma, the relatively short-term response to this research is clearly to regulate traffic and reduce emissions so that the Peruvian kids can finally breathe easily.

The Verizon iPhone: everything we've ever dreamed of?

The Verizon iPhone. It's here! Everyone's talking about it. Verizon is putting down a hard sell. But is it worth the hassle? Is it worth the money? Most importantly, is it worth your time? Let's find out.

Let's lay out the facts up front: this is the iPhone 4 with a CDMA radio, connected to Verizon's network. That's all, in terms of hardware. This isn't 4G (LTE for Verizon), nor is it the "next" iPhone. The major points to talk through are as follows: voice, data, tethering and pricing.

Voice
The AT&T network is famous.



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The Verizon iPhone has better coverage, worse network.

Yufeng Guo Tech Talk

For dropping calls. Let's face it, there are people who call their iPhone a not-phone because it happens so frequently. The network's propensity to drop calls has been the subject of countless jokes, and that doesn't look to change anytime soon.

Enter Verizon. It steps in to offer a more reliable calling experience, and for the most part current Verizon users can attest to this.

There are definitely AT&T users who are considering jumping ship now that they have a way to keep their favorite phone but drop their least favorite service provider.

So breathe freely knowing that you can have an extended conversation without dreading your call being dropped.

Data

Verizon's 3G network speeds have often been compared to AT&T's network speeds. To put it bluntly, Verizon hasn't come out ahead.

This does not change, with the iPhone. I'll spare you the detailed numbers, but the raw speeds are certainly consistently slower than AT&T's offerings.

However, during normal phone data usage, it's hard to notice a

difference, short of slower loading time for YouTube videos.

This is an opportune time to mention tethering. Verizon is offering tethering for their iPhone for \$20/month, which is the same deal as what it offers Android users. So if you are loading full images and websites, you will be certainly noticing the slower connection.

Personally, I have been feeling the reduction when I tether my Verizon Android, but it's manageable. You certainly would not want it to be your only way online, but it serves as a backup.

There is one major caveat with this setup, however. Verizon's CDMA network does not allow for voice and data to move at the same time. This means that when you are on a call with someone, you cannot access data.

As a result, you won't be able to browse for that restaurant while on speakerphone with someone. But more importantly, you won't be able to use the internet if you are tethered and re-



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While rumors of a Verizon iPhone have been around for years now, they have finally come to fruition.

ceive a call until you hang up.

Pricing

Verizon is offering the same pricing model on the iPhone 4 as its other smartphones. For now, it's \$29.99/month for unlimited data (compared to the capped 5GB data on AT&T), an additional \$20/month for tethering, and the cheapest nationwide calling plan with unlimited texting is \$59/month.

That brings the total without tethering to \$89.99/month, or \$69.99/month if you drop the texting plan. AT&T's capped data plans mean that you end up pay-

ing the same, but you also pay for capped data and dropped calls.

So is it worth it? Well, as is often the case, it depends. It depends on how you want to use your phone, whether you want a reliable connection that's a bit slower or a fast connection that hops and skips on and off.

It depends on what network you are on right now, and whether your contract is done yet. Are there going to be more iPhones down the road? Almost certainly, but how bad is your current situation? So should you wait? Only you can answer that.

Sex appeal of male fruit flies levels off with more generations

Scientists from the University of Queensland in Australia have found that while attractiveness in male fruit flies can increase over generations, it eventually levels off.

The team of researchers engineered a population of male *Drosophila serrata* to release excess amounts of pheromones.

These scent molecules play an essential role in fly behavior and are used to attract female flies.

The scientists engineered the flies to specifically release a combination of pheromones considered attractive by female flies.

For seven generations, scientists selectively bred the flies and observed an increase in the population of attractive males.

However, after the seventh generation, there were no more increases. After 11 generations, scientist allowed the flies to breed naturally.

They found that over time, the effect of artificially bolstering males with pheromones decreased by half in just five generations.

To explain the phenomena, scientists concluded that there must be some sort of trade-off between attractiveness of the male flies and the fitness of the male fly.

There is a cost to being too attractive. The pheromones of the male fly are similar to a peacock's tail or a lion's mane: they are external signals that display a male's fitness.

However, these extravagant signals come at a cost. These signals require energy to produce

and make the males more visible to predators.

The study was published in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences*.

Birds keep an eye on quantum mechanics to aid migration

Birds may use quantum effects in order to "see" and navigate the Earth's magnetic field. A new model predicts that birds maintain quantum entanglement in their eyes a full 20 microseconds longer than the best laboratory systems.

In a study published in *Physical Review Letters*, Simon Benjamin of Oxford University and his colleagues built a mathematical model that simulates the chemical reaction that occurs in the eye. The model takes into account previous research and data published in 2004.

Researchers in the past have identified the existence of special optical cells containing a protein called cryptochrome. When a photon enters the eye, it hits cryptochrome, giving a boost of energy to electrons that exist in a state of quantum entanglement.

In the following reaction, the electrons migrate a few nanometers away from each other. As a result, the two electrons experience slightly different magnetic fields.

Depending on how the magnetic field alters the electron's spin, different chemical reactions are produced. Throughout the reaction, the two electrons are communicating with each other using quantum entanglement. In theory, these reactions could be

used to "map" the Earth's magnetic field.

Quantum entanglement occurs when two particles are linked and separated by space. When a force is applied to one particle, both particles react instantaneously, even if they are separated by vast distances.

In 2004, researchers led by physicist Thorsten Ritz of University of California, Irvine, demonstrated that small shifts in Earth's magnetic field — less than one-third of one percent of field strength — affected the bird's ability to navigate.

Such an effect could only occur if a strange phenomenon called quantum entanglement was involved.

Benjamin's mathematical model takes into account Ritz's results as well as data on the cryptochrome protein.

According to the model, quantum entanglement is maintained in the bird's eye for a hundred milliseconds, twenty milliseconds longer than the best laboratory experiments, which typically occur in a vacuum at absolute zero.

Benjamin emphasizes that more work needs to be done in order to definitively prove that quantum entanglement is occurring in a bird's eye.

Seahorses are shaped to strike prey at lightning speed

The seahorse is one of the most uniquely shaped fish in the animal kingdom.

The reason for the distinct S-curved bodies has remained a mystery. However, a new explanation may shed light on the matter.

According to a study published in *Nature Communications*, the seahorse shape extends the fish's reach. Compared to tube-shaped pipefish, their closest relative, seahorses extend their snouts an extra thirty percent.

The difference of a few millimeters gives the seahorse a distinct advantage, especially when the animal's strike range is only a centimeter or two.

The extra strike range allows the animal to be stealthier, increasing its chance of catching its prey. To test the link between shape and hunting ability, Lara Ferry, an author of the study, and her team created a computer model which predicts the movements of seahorses and pipefish.

Using the model, the team es-



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The S-shape of seahorses allows them to extend farther and faster when hunting prey.

timated how body curvature affected striking range. To verify the results, Ferry analyzed high-speed video of seahorses and pipefish feeding.

Poor swimmers, seahorses hide in sea grass and corals and use stealth to catch their prey. While most fish, pipefish included, swim towards their prey, seahorses hide and wait for tiny shrimp to float by.

Before a strike, seahorses tense their muscles and snap forward. The entire attack is over within four milliseconds.

New species of wolf identified in Egypt

Conservationists in Egypt have announced the discovery of a new species of wolf in Egypt.

Because of its striking resemblance to the golden jackal, the "Egyptian jackal," as it is known, was initially classified as a subspecies of jackal.

However, as long ago as 1880, naturalists noticed that the Egyptian jackal looked similar to the grey wolf. Several biologists in the 20th century, studying skulls, made the same claim.

In a new study published in *PLOS One*, the difference between the two species formalized the difference. Analysis of Egyptian jackal's DNA reveals that the species is closely related to wolves in the Himalayas and the Indian subcontinent.

The wolf's closest relatives

are Ethiopian wolves, which live 2500 kilometers away. The Ethiopian wolf is believed to have split off from the grey wolf line much later than the Egyptian jackal. The study also sheds light on how wolf species migrated through Africa and Europe.

In particular, the new DNA evidence supports the theory that grey wolves emerged in Africa approximately three million years before they spread to the northern hemisphere.

The next goal for scientists will be to find out the exact population of the Egyptian jackal in the wild. From there, scientists will determine if conservation efforts are needed in order to protect the population.

Crested gibbons' songs marked with regional accents

In a study conducted by researchers from the German Primate Centre in Göttingen, regional accents, similar to those found in humans, have been dis-

covered in the songs of crested gibbons.

The small ape, native to south-east Asia and southern China, were known to communicate in species-specific song when defining territory and attracting mates.

The new discovery, however, has discovered a correlation between song structure, geography and genetics within a specific species.

While each gibbon has their own unique song, scientists found that, within populations, there were certain regional similarities in song structure and sound. This is similar to regional accents of dialects found in human populations.

The study, published in the *BMC Evolutionary Biology journal*, focused on the song structure of six crested-gibbon species, paying particular attention to the four most closely related. More than 400 male and female songs were recorded from 92 groups, in 24 different locations.

While there are similarities in species' song structure, there were many variations. The researchers compared 53 different vocal features and correlated the comparison with genetic analysis.

The scientists found that the four most related songs came

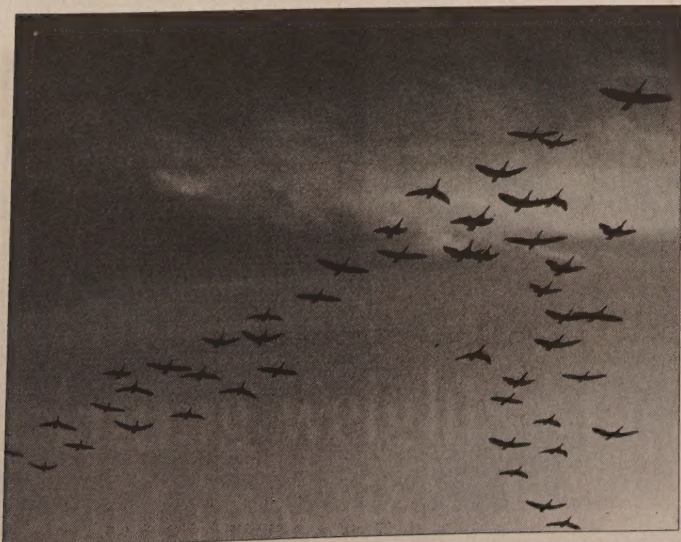


COURTESY OF OLYMPICANIMALSANCTUARY.COM
Much like humans, crested gibbons have regional accents.

from individuals lived in the greatest proximity to one another with the most closely related DNA.

Scientists hope that if this pattern is seen in other primate species, it could be used as a tool for researchers to help identify genetic relationship between species and define migration history.

— All briefs by Husain Danish



COURTESY OF WWW.HELPINGPSYCHOLOGY.COM

Proteins in birds' eyes use quantum entanglement to detect Earth's magnetic field.

SPORTS

Hopkins first to construct athletic building devoted to lacrosse

LACROSSE, FROM A1

Center is home to the men's and women's lacrosse offices, locker rooms and training facilities.

Athletic director Tom Calder, Men's Lacrosse Head Coach Dave Pietramala, and Women's Lacrosse Head Coach Janine Tucker joined Daniels at the press conference.

Pietramala, who is entering his 11th season as head coach, noted the importance of keeping pace with other schools as the world of college lacrosse continues to evolve.

"The landscape of college lac-

crosse has changed dramatically over the last 10 years," he said. "Whether it's recruiting, facilities, salaries, expectations, television exposure... the game has changed."

As the men's and women's lacrosse programs move into the new facilities, they will free up more space in the athletic center for Hopkins's other teams. For that reason, Pietramala said he believed that the building of the Cordish Lacrosse Center will have a "trickle-down effect that will help other sports at Hopkins."

Tucker expressed the most enthusiasm of all, running around the room embracing Dan-

iels, Cordish, and other donors. "Isn't this fantastic?" the head coach remarked exuberantly. "I'm absolutely freaking out right now."

Unlike the men's program, which played its first intercollegiate lacrosse game in 1883, women's lacrosse is relatively new at Hopkins. The university played its first women's lacrosse game in 1976 and went from Division III to Division I in 1999.

Tucker called the creation of the facility an "extraordinary event... for our program" and promised donors, alumni, and fans that the teams would not let them down.

Both coaches noted the impor-

tance of the new building in the recruiting process, since the facility is the first of its kind dedicated exclusively to lacrosse. Calder underscored this point when he stated, "Only at Hopkins do you get support like this."

Rachel Ballatori, a junior on the women's team who plays attack, said that recruits who visit Hopkins get excited when they are told about the planned facility.

Ballatori also noted the "tremendous pride" she expects to feel when her team enters Homewood field from the Cordish Lacrosse Center before the start of a game.

While the construction will not actually get started until after the conclusion of this season, a ceremonial groundbreaking will take place at halftime of the men's home game against Navy on April 23.

Owners, NFLPA to head butt, possible lockout this fall

By RYAN KAHN
Staff Writer

What would happen if Apple stopped making iPods and iPads because CEO Steve Jobs wanted an extra penny for every one sold? What if Starbucks stopped making coffee because their baristas wanted an extra piece of the pie?

America would be in a state of pandemonium; America can't just run on Dunkin' — everybody knows that. Imagine a similar scenario if an NFL lockout were to take place next season because of a failure to cooperate between owners and players when restructuring the current collective bargaining agreement.

In my estimation, the Mayan prediction for the end of the world in 2012 wouldn't be that far off.

So far, several media sources have made it seem as though the problem is multi-millionaire superstars getting greedier, but in reality, it is the opposite. As of now, NFL owners are afraid that with ensuing market risks, they will lose a solid portion of their profits. The owners want a larger percentage of NFL profits; right now, about 60 percent of the NFL's money goes to the players compared to 40 percent going in the owner's pockets.

The NFL Players Association (NFLPA) has held strong to this point around union leaders Kevin Mawae and DeMaurice Smith. The union is well-versed in conundrums such as this: back when Gene Upshaw was starring for the Oakland Raiders, he was one of the first to take a stand against owner's demands, and today, players still stand behind his philosophy.

Recently, former New England Patriot linebacker Teddy Bruschi said that Upshaw held on to "what was theirs" with the utmost conviction in a heated ESPN commentary. Upshaw would always emphasize that giving into even a small amount of the owner's demands will result in a snowball effect. Bruschi described this dilemma as a struggle not only for today's modern gladiators, but also for future NFL players years down the road as well.

Peyton Manning, the Indianapolis Colts' four-time MVP and Super Bowl winning quarterback who is arguably the face of the NFL, has not held back his opinions on the bargaining agreement of late either. In a recent round-table discussion, Manning questioned Carolina Panthers' owner Jerry Richardson about missing financial documentation that owners were citing.

Richardson snapped back, giving Manning a condescending business lecture about topics covered in basic high school

courses. The 6'5, 230-pound quarterback was enraged and seemed as if he were about to jump across the table.

Any Given Sunday, the critically acclaimed football film by Oliver Stone, gets to the crux of what this lockout is all about. In the movie, Stone makes constant references to ancient Roman gladiators and Greek Olympians, men that literally put their lives on the line for the glory and riches of victory while the bourgeoisie watched from a distance to make a profit of their own.

Today, you have America's finest athletes on one side, men that have worked their entire lives to be where they are. Viewed by the public as heroes, they put their bodies on the line any given Sunday to give the fans what they want to see.

Granted, they're playing the game they love and not battling with swords and tigers like the Romans did, but with the new research and findings on concussions, some players are playing themselves into a stupor.

I say give these players the money they deserve; they are the ones putting the fans in the stands, not the owners. Last time I checked, nobody went to a Panthers game to see Jerry Richardson crush hot dogs from his booth.

If a lockout does occur, fans should hesitate before they think it may all be bad, however. As a result of the lockout, the NFL amateur draft would be held before free agency, giving weaker teams a chance to catch up, and therefore creating greater parity throughout the game. Small market franchises could hope for quick rags to riches stories because teams would focus more on overall talent than immediate needs in the draft and could then address remaining weaknesses through free agency. What usually takes years to create through new coaching regimes could be catalyzed within a year by this lockout.

Still, rest assured that the owners would be the villains in the case of a lockout. Some of the richest men in America would be taking away football, one of the many things that makes this country so great.

Think about it: no government assistance or FEMA service could have done for the city of New Orleans what the Saints did when they won the Super Bowl in 2010. By winning a "game," the Saints uplifted an entire city and gave them a newfound sense of pride and hope.

Commissioner Goodell needs to stop playing the role of the appealing mediator and do everything and anything in his power to stop this lockout. Dropping your annual salary to one dollar just isn't going to cut it.

Bluegrass swimming championships begin

SWIMMING, FROM B12

score of the teams. With first place in relays being worth 11 points compared with nine points for individual events, meets are won or lost by the abilities of these four-man teams.

The meet started off with the 200-meter medley relay where each swimmer swam a different stroke in the order of backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle.

Freshman standout Anthony Lordi, *The News-Letter's* Athlete of the Week, anchored the team in the close race of 1:46.28 to Navy's 1:46.13. Narrowly edged out for the entirety of the race, Lordi was able to make up 0.55 seconds for the Jays during his time in the pool.

Sophomore Alec Contag posted Hopkins's fastest time in the 800-meter freestyle, finishing fifth in 9:01.04 and freshman Michael Leddy finishing sixth with 9:08.83.

In the 200-meter freestyle, freshman Theo Leclerc finished third for the Jays, and the 100-me-

ter backstroke featured sophomore Nick Schmidt racing to fifth place in 1:01.99. The winner of that race was a midshipman four years older than Schmidt.

The 100-meter backstroke showcased junior Timothy Nam in the winner's circle with a third place showing of 1:06.20, significantly better than his seeded time of 1:07.86.

With no Hopkins swimmers competing in the 200-meter butterfly, the Jays took the time to refocus and start showcasing their talent. Freshman Ben Tillar took bronze in the fastest



FILE PHOTO
The fifth-ranked Blue Jays are ready for conferences.

event in the pool, the 50-meter freestyle with 24.68.

The 100-meter freestyle garnered the Jays their first win, with Lordi posting an impressive time of 52.65. The runner-up finished half a second after Lordi and sophomore Tyler Woods came just behind them in third place with 53.59 to give Hopkins the bookends in the winner's circle.

The 10th event of the night, the 200-meter backstroke, had Hopkins finishing 5-6 with freshman David Woodford finishing in 2:14.13 and junior Patrick Lynch in 2:17.62.

The rest of the events of the night were exhibitions for Navy, with sophomore Nick Schmidt blowing away the competition in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 56.51 compared with the runner-up's time of 57.91, a difference of 1.40 seconds.

The final event of the night was the 200-meter freestyle relay, which Hopkins won with a time of 1:34.22. The relay team consisted of Lordi, junior Eddy Zandee, freshman Joe Acquaviva and sophomore Carter Gisriel.

"It was especially exciting winning the 200-free relay at the end of the meet since it kind of ended the regular season on a high note," said Zandee. The other guys on the relay are all underclassmen and they really stepped up and got the win."

Last year the Jays finished with bronze at the Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships, placing behind two Division II powerhouses, with six Jays advancing to the NCAA Championships in Minneapolis, Minn.

"We have high expectations for ourselves, as well as for each other," said Zandee. "We have a lot of depth this year, so there's competition within the team that drives us to be better. It's awesome being ranked fifth, but now it's time to back it up and prove that we are a top-five team."

Of those six, three are returning to N.C.: junior Stephen Niemiec, junior Timothy Nam, and sophomore Nick Schmidt.

"After finishing fourth last year, we are confident that this will be our year," said Lynch.

Though the most memorable member of that team, John Thomas, has graduated, who won three straight NCAA titles in the 200-backstroke in addition to beating his own national record in 2010, the team this year is just as strong as in past years. For Zandee, "We had some great swims against Navy that helped build our confidence for our upcoming Conference Championship Meet in Charlotte. It's just great that we have the opportunity to swim against solid D1 teams like Navy this past weekend, as well as Maryland, Loyola, Towson, [and] UConn earlier in the season."

Wrestlers split final dual meet before postseason

By KYLE HALLERAN
Staff Writer

The Hopkins wrestling team competed in their last matches of the regular season this past Sunday in Hoboken, N.J. The Blue Jays lost to the 11th ranked United States Merchant Marine Academy 29-10 and then defeated Stevens by a score of 20-16.

The two-game split gives Hopkins a 9-10 record to finish the regular season. With the victory over Stevens, the Jays finish 5-2 in the Centennial Conference, good enough for a second place tie — the highest standing in Hopkins history.

Holding onto a slim 4-3 lead, the Jays dropped three straight battles at 141, 149, and 157 pounds to give the Mariners a 15-4 lead. It was a tough match for Hopkins who got just three wins in the opener by sophomore Paul Marcello, senior Eric Levenseller, and sophomore Reid Mosquera in the 133, 165, and 197 weight divisions, respectively.

Even after the tough loss, the Jays came out rocking on all cylinders in the second contest of the twin-bill. Against Stevens, Hopkins struck the Ducks first when freshman Ray Yagloski defeated his opponent by way of medical forfeit to claim the 125-pound weight class. Stevens went on to claim victories in the 133, 141, and 149 weight classes to take a three-point lead.

Desperate for some victories to catch up, Hopkins freshman Matt Fusaro defeated his opponent Leo Dormann soundly by a score of 8-3. Fusaro's victory in the 157-pound division gave fellow Jays Levenseller and senior Patrick Stanley enough momentum to follow suit and give Hopkins a 16-9 lead.

Junior Ben Finelli was then defeated by Ryan Dormann in the 184-pound weight class, bringing Stevens to within three points of Hopkins. With just two matches to go, sophomore Reid Mosquera took down Jason Nowakowski in the 197-pound weight class to the tune of a convincing 14-4 final score.

Shortly after with the Jays leading 20-13, Vincent Termini of Stevens defeated junior Rick Danilkowicz at 285 pounds, 5-4. Danilkowicz's hard fought battle to avoid a major decision secured Hopkins the victory, 20-16.

Patrick Stanley, whose major decision against the Ducks proved pivotal, thought the weekend was a stepping stone for what could lie ahead in the postseason.

"This weekend we competed well," he said. "We have the talent to defeat the United States Merchant Marine Academy. We were all exhausted from the tough week of practices leading up, but we now have two weeks to recover and get ready for conferences. We will be ready to go; we're all focused and pumped up for the conference championship."

Hopkins will next compete in the Centennial Conference Championships at Washington & Lee University on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Vitale, Wieder lead fencing teams through final dual matches

By CHIP HARSH
Sports Editor

Led by senior Mary Vitale, the women's fencing team went 4-2 at Stevens Tech on Sunday. The squad beat Stevens, Queens College (NY), Fairleigh-Dickinson and Tufts. The two losses came at the hands of Temple and Brandeis.

The Hopkins men's fencing team traveled to Durham, N.C. for the Duke Invitational on Sunday. The Jays lost to Duke, Notre Dame and North Carolina.

The Lady Jays began the day by defeating host Stevens 18-9 while sweeping all three weapons. Freshman Katherine Simeon was 3-0 with the Sabre and fellow freshman Kathleen Rand also had a pair of wins. The Epee against Stevens was a tight 5-4, but Hopkins took the win behind three bout victories from junior Lauren Chinn. Freshman Jackie Heath and junior Marion Trumbull combined for six wins in the 7-2 Foil victory.

Nationally ranked ninth Temple handed the Jays a 22-5 loss. The Owls swept the Foil 9-0, but in the Epee Chinn took another three victories and in the Sabre Rand and Simeon each won one.

Queens College turned out to be no match for Hopkins. Rand and Vitale each won three bouts in the 9-0 Sabre skunk. Hopkins also picked up a decisive 8-1 win in the Epee with three win showings from freshman Liz Caris and sophomore Komal Kumar. Heath also won three bout in the 7-2 Foil match against Queens.

Hopkins continued the pattern and dropped a very close 14-13 match against Brandeis. The Sabre went to Brandeis, 6-3, despite two wins from Simeon. Hopkins won the Epee 5-4 with three wins from Chinn. And in the Foil, Heath had three bout wins and Hopkins took the weapon win 5-4.

Against Tufts, the Jays took another win 16-11. Vitale added another two wins in the Sabre, which went to Hopkins 5-4. At the Epee Kumar and Caris each won two of three bouts and Hopkins again won 5-4. Hopkins shut the doors on Tufts with a 7-2 win for the Foil.

Fairleigh-Dickinson was the final victim of the Jays who won their final matchup of the day 23-4. Vitale and Simeon combined for six bout wins again to take the Sabre 8-1. Chinn finished the day undefeated with three wins in the

Epee against FDU. And Hopkins swept the Foil 9-0 with Heath adding another three bout wins.

Vitale crossed the 200-win milestone in her second bout against Fairleigh-Dickinson University.

The men's team faced three of the nation's top fencing teams in Durham. Notre Dame entered the weekend as the top-ranked team in the country and subsequently swept Hopkins at all three weapons. Hopkins lost the Duke match 21-6 and the Tar Heels beat the Jays after tight scoring for all three weapons.

Against the Duke Blue Devils, Hopkins dropped the Sabre 5-4. But seniors Max Wieder and Mike Fellows each notched two wins. Only senior Nick Krywopusk had a win in the Epee portion of the matchup, which Hopkins lost 8-1. The Jays also lost the Foil 8-1. Freshman standout Evan Stafford had the only Hopkins win.

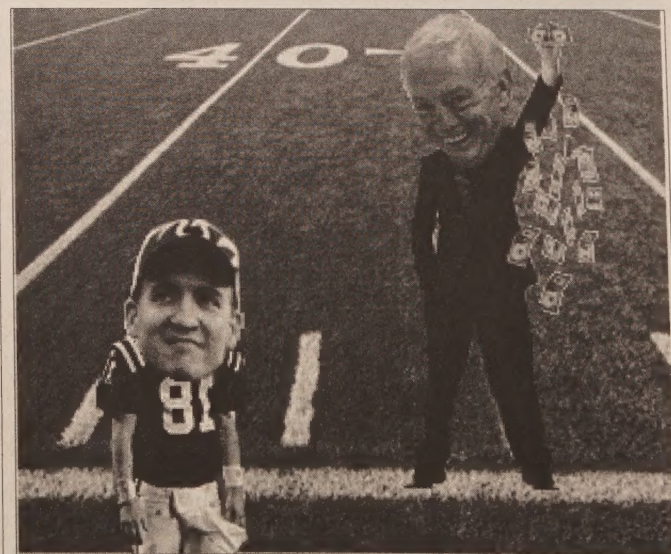
Wieder one a single bout in the Sabre against Notre Dame — as did sophomore Sid Menon. But Hopkins still took a 7-2 loss in the Sabre. In the Epee, freshman Jay DeYoung took the only win an 8-1 Fighting Irish victory. Stafford had the only win in the Foil for another 8-1 Hopkins loss against Notre Dame.

Against the Tar Heels, the Jays lost the Sabre 7-2 with bout victories coming from Menon and sophomore Nicolas Barbera. In the Epee against North Carolina, Hopkins pulled out a 5-4 victory. DeYoung won two bouts and so did freshman Richard Bram who clinched the win in the eight and final bout of the Epee. The Tar Heels bounced back to take the Foil from the Jays with a 6-3 victory. Stafford had a pair of wins to end the end of the day while sophomore Ben Wasser notched a win as well.

Wieder has dropped only 34 bouts this season and leads the team with 50 victories. He also has an impressive collegiate career record of 310-150.

The final even of the year for Hopkins's men's fencers will be Feb. 27th at the U.S. Squad Weapon Championships in New York City.

The women's team travels back to Hoboken, N.J. over the next two weekends to compete in the team and individual EQFC Championships along with the U.S. Squad Weapon Championships.



BLUE JAY SCOREBOARD

M. LACROSSE

Saturday, Feb. 12th:

Hopkins 9, Lafayette 8

W. BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 12th:

Hopkins 72, Ursinus 48

Wednesday, Feb. 16th:

Hopkins 63, F&M 57

M. BASKETBALL

Saturday, Feb. 12th:

Hopkins 55, Ursinus 71

Wednesday, Feb. 16th:

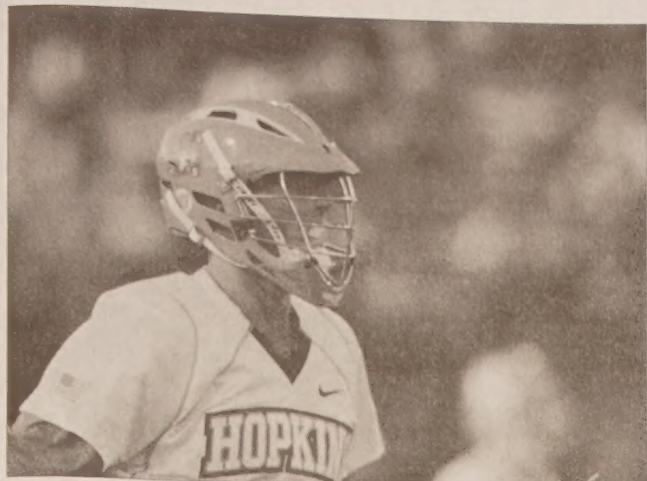
Hopkins 60, F&M 72

W. LACROSSE

Saturday, Feb. 12th:

Hopkins 14, American 3

SPORTS



MORGAN YANG/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Senior captain Kyle Wharton is ready to lead a young and talented Blue Jay squad.

M. Lacrosse tunes up for opener at Towson

By **MIKE PORAMBO**
Staff Writer

In a tradition that started more than 10 years ago, the Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team scrimmaged the Cornell Big Red in preseason action. It was the second scrimmage for both teams, as Cornell played Colgate last week and the Jays traveled up to Penn State last Saturday.

The two teams battled back and forth evenly, with the Big Red taking a 4-1 halftime lead before the Jays dominated the second half to bring the score to 8-7. Including a ten-minute period played after the fourth quarter, the Jays outscored Cornell 9-8 on the day.

The Jays's top performers on the afternoon included sophomore midfielder John Greely and sophomore goalie Pierce Bassett, who made some amazing saves, stopping Cornell attackmen from point-blank range on several instances.

For Cornell, player of the year candidate Rob Pannell played a great game, scoring three goals and dishing two assists despite being covered by sophomore defenseman Tucker Durkin.

Hopkins's offense got off to a slow start, scoring just one goal in the first quarter and failing to score at all in the second. Cornell, on the other hand, wasted little time as Pannell put the first goal on the board less than two minutes into the game.

The next 10 minutes were a standstill with both teams finding reasonable shots on goal, but each was unable to find the back of the net.

With just under three minutes to go in the quarter, Greely found sophomore Zach Palmer open and buried the shot past Cornell goalie A.J. Fiore. Bassett continued to make great saves in the period, but with less than 25 seconds to play in the quarter Cornell managed to get one past Bassett to take a 2-1 lead into the second quarter.

The second quarter was more-or-less the same. Bassett continued to stop shots and the defense forced turnovers, while the Jays's offense was stagnant and failed to score. Hopkins's defense did successfully kill a penalty early in the period, though.

Midway through the period, in an impressive display of force, sophomore midfielder John Ranagan steamrolled three defenders en route to a successful clear before an illegal body check on junior midfielder Marshall Burkhardt gave Cornell an extra man opportunity with 1:46 left in the half. This time, Cornell capitalized, taking a 3-1 lead with 1:25 to play. Cornell won the ensuing face-off and scored again, taking a 4-1 lead

into the intermission.

A different Jay team came to play in the second half. The offense dominated time of possession which created many more opportunities, and, in turn, more goals.

Hopkins's goalie play continued to be top-notch behind the aggressive, relentless style of play by the Jay defense which forced turnovers and eliminated Cornell's scoring chances.

The two teams traded two goals apiece to begin the period, with Greely scoring twice, his first on an extra-man opportunity at 10:45 and his second a few minutes later.

Down 6-3 with three minutes left to play in the period, the methodical, fluid Hopkins offense continued to work as Burkhardt set up freshman attackman Brandon Benn who ripped a top right shot past Fiore to cut the lead to two. After facilitating the previous goal, Burkhardt scored a goal of his own to end the quarter. At the end of three, Cornell hung on by a thread at 6-5.

After making 10 impressive saves on the day, Bassett was replaced by junior Steven Burke for the fourth quarter who played at an elite level as well.

Less than a minute into the final stanza, freshman Rob Guida scored a goal to tie the game at six apiece. Soon after, on an extra-man opportunity, senior attackman Chris Boland found Guida wide open next to the net, who buried the point-blank attempt. Boland was the offense's facilitator on the day, setting up many scoring opportunities.

Two quick goals by Cornell less than two minutes apart gave them an 8-6 lead with 10:30 to play. The next 10 minutes rapidly moved thanks to few stoppages in play alongside a sudden goal drought. With 30 seconds left in the period, freshman attackman Kevin Interlichio scored to bring the score to 8-7 at the end of regulation.

In the 10 minute extra period, Hopkins's reserve players appeared much more organized and aggressive compared to Cornell's. Freshman goalie Eric Schneider did not allow a goal and goals by sophomore attackman John Kaestner and Benn gave the Jays a 9-8 lead.

Hopkins ended the game on a high note, as the Jay defense successfully defended a two-man advantage.

"We worked hard, but we need to play games the way we played in the second half," said junior defenseman Andrew Blasko. "We'll be ready to play next week."

The regular season begins next week at nearby Towson. Face-off is scheduled to begin at noon.

By **SAM GLASSMAN**
Staff Writer

Feb. 14 marked an important day for one Hopkins sport. Although most people reserve the day for their Valentine, the Men's Swimming team celebrated the birthday of Athlete of the Week Anthony Lordi, a freshman on the team, who has more than earned his spot in the lane.

At 6-foot-2-inches, the freshman from Philadelphia has been setting top times for the season across the board. So far, he has had the second fastest time for the 50-yard freestyle, six out of the top ten fastest times in the 100-yard freestyle, including the two fastest times in that event, five out of the ten fastest times in the 200-yard freestyle (including the top three fastest times), three out of the ten fastest times in the 500-yard freestyle (including the number one fastest time for that event), the eleventh fastest time for the 100-yard backstroke and the fifth fastest time for the 200-yard backstroke.

In addition, he has placed in the top ten fastest times for the 100-yard butterfly, the 200-yard individual medley (with the fastest three times for that event), the 400-yard individual medley (with the fastest time), the 200-, 400- and 800-yard freestyle relay,

the 100-yard breaststroke and the 400-yard medley relay.

Looking at these accomplishments, it might be easier to instead count the five events he hasn't had a top time in.

These accomplishments might have something to do with Lordi's personality.

"Anthony really enjoys competition in anything he does... he keeps getting better because he wants to keep getting better, and he won't let himself not keep getting better," said George Kennedy, head coach of Men's Swimming for 25 years with 15 conference titles under his belt.

And he will have to keep improving if he wants to realize his goal of qualifying for the Olympic trials this summer. The deadline to qualify for the trials is this summer.

But for Lordi, it's just part of being on the team, a sentiment he expressed when he explained the offseason workouts. "We try to keep in the water as much as possible... [but] as serious as it gets we still manage to goof off a lot... it's a lot of fun."

Lordi is a valuable asset amongst a large group of freshman on the team — 11 out of 25 members of the team are freshman, a number which amounts to four less kids than Lordi's extremely small high school swim

team.

In high school, Lordi was in the water for much of his time. "I played varsity water polo in high school... with two guys who are juniors now on the [Hopkins] Men's Water Polo team," said Lordi.

Swimming was always his sport of choice, though, as Lordi told me. "I was six when I was on my first swim team." It has

been his sport of choice ever since. The Athlete of the Week went on to become a three-time All-American, recognized sophomore, junior and senior year for his achievements in the pool. Despite playing soccer at a young age, Lordi decided early on that the pool was the place for him. The firm-ground sport just didn't have the same attraction.

In addition to his life in the sports world, Lordi takes academics seriously. Laughing, he told me he plans to major in "public health and pre-med... if I can keep up with it." He also plans on doing work at the tutoring center in the spring.

This focus on academics probably had a large impact on Lordi's selection of where to attend school this year; understandably a hard decision for someone who has "received offers to swim at Princeton and Penn," said Coach Kennedy.

The choice to swim at Hopkins seems to have been a good one for Lordi. As Coach Kennedy puts it, "the team chemistry is unbelievable." Af-

ter talking to Lordi, he seemed to be positive about the future of the team, and about how well the guys on the team like each other.

When asked if the team spent time with each other out of the pool, Anthony assured me that they did and that they are a "pretty tight group," to say the least.

The season is far from over, though, as both Lordi and Coach

Kennedy are looking to the future with hopeful eyes. "I'm going to be swimming in all the Conference relays, and am really close to making the Conference in both the 200 and 100 individual freestyles," said Lordi.

"I want to be right up there to win the individuals," Lordi said, "but my main fo-

cus is on the relays." This seems to fit Coach Kennedy's description of Lordi's attitude, when he said "he always realizes the best interest for the team... [which has] been enhanced by his presence so far."

What makes Lordi such a valuable member of the team is not necessarily the fact that he is better in certain races, but that he has the ability to compete in a multitude of races. As Coach Kennedy put it, "He's not just 'fast-good,' but he's 'versatile-good'... he's really good in any freestyle." This accounts for the fact that he holds so many top times — he is valuable in almost any type of race.

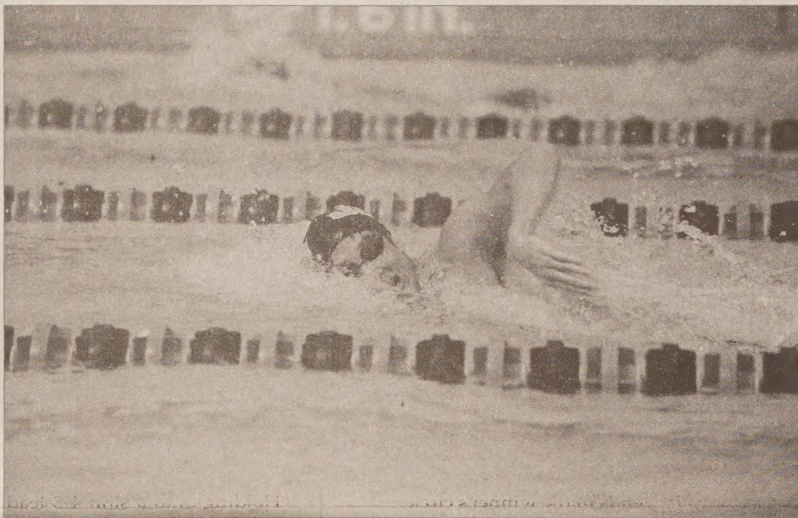
While Coach Kennedy was deliberate to point out that any one member of the team cannot single-handedly win an event, he did feel comfortable saying "if we don't have him in some meets, we won't win some meets."

Lordi was one of the top recruits for the team, and has proven himself that it is a title he is willing to earn. But, despite all this success in the pool, Coach Kennedy was eager to point out that in the end, he's just an "upbeat, fun-loving normal college guy."

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK ANTHONY LORDI - SWIMMING

VITAL STATISTICS

Anthony Lordi has been a vital addition to Hopkins men's swimming this season, having a major hand in several Bluegrass Mountain Conference victories. Two weeks ago, Lordi was named the conference swimmer of the week.



COURTESY OF JHU SPORTS INFO OFFICE
Anthony Lordi's freshman campaign has been a grand entrance that will continue at conference finals.

Lady Jays to break out against George Mason

W. LACROSSE, FROM B12
with a win by a large margin," she said.

A similar sentiment would be echoed by Coach Tucker. "Overall, I was very pleased with our performance and how well the girls played with each other," Tucker said. "We really shared the ball well, covered each other on defense and communicated well across the field."

The Jays not only used their performance on the field to evaluate themselves against their competition but to also measure the team's progress at this juncture compared to Hopkins teams from years past.

"After what I saw on Saturday, I would say we are well ahead of where we were this time last year," Tucker said. "We are faster, more athletic and move the ball better."

Coach Tucker, however, was quick to point out that, "We still have a lot to work on."

The Jays' progress cannot be entirely due to physical improvements, though. The Jays have also grown by simply reverting to the fundamental principles Tucker stresses to her team every year.

"We are really focused on stressing our core concepts of attitude, mindset and work ethic and that the team has embraced the importance of these three areas," Tucker said.

Schweizer felt Tucker's sentiments manifested on the field. "We had great chemistry," the sophomore said.

Under Coach Tucker and her guiding principles, the Jays look poised to regain their form as a national power and make a run at the NCAA tournament. If this past Saturday is any indication, they may be well on their way.

Hopkins opens regular season play against George Mason in a 1 p.m. contest at Homewood Field this Saturday.

M. Basketball takes two losses on the road

By **MIKE KANEN**
Sports Editor

Men's basketball competed in two Centennial Conference affairs this past week, the first of which was Saturday afternoon against the Ursinus Bears, and the second coming Wednesday night at Franklin & Marshall. Both games fell out of favor for the Jays who have struggled mightily this season, their record now falling to 6-18 overall and 4-13 in the conference.

Against host Ursinus, the Jays looked good early on, keeping the game close the entire first half. In the first 20 minutes of play, the largest lead of the game had been just a measly five-point advantage for Hopkins.

Sophomore guard Mike Rhoads was a catalyst to start the game, as he scored 11 in the first stanza and Hopkins's first seven points. Senior forward Jon Alberici led the Jays with 12 points in the game, and freshman Daniel Corbett chipped in seven points of his own. Junior Tim McCarty had a terrific game, posting a career-high four steals in the contest.

On the other side, the Bears were carried by the exceptional play of 6-foot-10-inch sophomore forward Jon Ward who scored 31, 15 of which came from the free throw line. After the game, Ward would be named the Centennial Conference's co-player of the week.

Tied at 30 with just under a minute to play in the second half following a self-tip in by sophomore forward Sean Wildes, Ursinus took control of the game's momentum by way of a buzzer beating long-range jump shot by senior guard Matt Hilton to give the Bears a 33-30 lead at intermission.

The game quickly fell out of reach for the Jays with the start of the second half.

Led by Ward and freshman point guard Jesse Krasna, the Bears scored the first ten points of the half, and would eventually extend their lead to as much as 20 points.

Hopkins struggled on defense in the second half, particularly in the paint where they were outscored 22-12. They also had a tough time from behind the arch, shooting just two for 16 from deep.

In most other facets, however, the game was evenly played, proving that maybe the score did not tell the entire story of the game. Both the Jays and Ursinus scored 12 points off turnovers in the game, and Hopkins's bench outscored the Bears's 19-13.

The final score of the game was 71-55.

The Jays hoped to put the loss behind them when matching up with the first-place and 21st-ranked Diplomats Wednesday evening. However, Franklin & Marshall dominated Hopkins earlier this season, taking down the Jays 86-55 in Baltimore, so the game would be far from easy.

From the get-go, turnovers were the name of the game as the Diplomats took advantage of Jay mistakes to get out to an 11 point lead at halftime.

Similar to their meeting in January, the game was close about 10 minutes into the game, changing leads four times. Leading 13-12, the Jays turned the ball over twice to give the Diplomats enough momentum to surge out to a 10 point lead within three minutes.

The second half was much better for the Jays, led by seven quick points by McCarty and back-to-back layups by Alberici to pull Hopkins within seven of Franklin & Marshall.

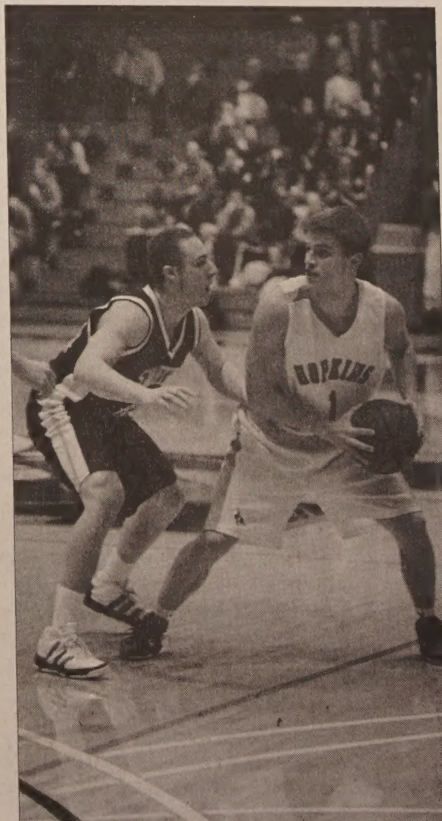
Thanks to great play by Diplomats Georgio Milligan, 21 points, Mike Baker, 14 points and Hayk Gyokchyan, 12 points,

Franklin & Marshall extended their lead back to twelve soon where it would stay for the remainder of the game. Hopkins fell 72-60.

The Jays were led by Alberici and McCarty who chipped in 14 and nine points apiece, respectively. They both led the team in rebounds, along with Connor McIntyre, with four.

Hopkins beat the Diplomats in most significant statistical categories, including three-point and free-throw percentages, 40 and 76.2 percent respectively, but the Diplomats had just nine turnovers compared to the Jays 17, although in the second half the turnover comparison was much better, 6 to 7.

The Jays will try to close out their season on a high note this Saturday at home, senior day, against conference rival Washington College at 1 p.m.



CAROLYN HAN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Sophomore Adam Spengler gets set to pass to a Jay.

BLUE JAY SCOREBOARD

FENCING

Saturday, February 12:

Hopkins 6, Duke 21
Hopkins 11, UNC 17
Hopkins 4, Notre Dame 23

WRESTLING

Sunday, February 13:

Hopkins 9, USMMA 29
Hopkins 20, Stevens 16

TRACK

Thursday, February 10:

Navy Sweetheart Invite:
Women 2nd out of 4

M. SWIMMING

Friday, February 11:

Hopkins 111, Navy 121

SPORTS

Did You Know?

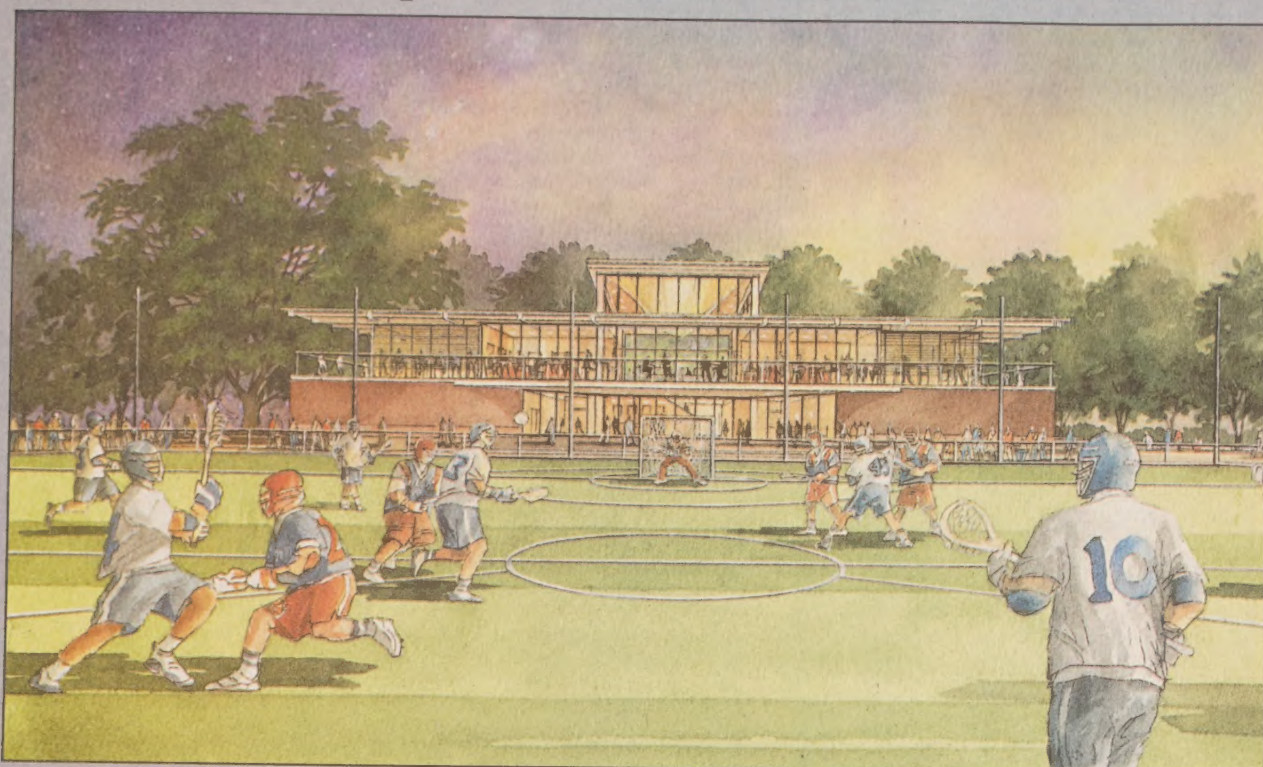
The News-Letter has been covering Hopkins athletics both collegiate and intramural for over 100 years. And we need sports enthusiasts to join our writing staff. Email sports@jhunewsletter.com for more info.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY
M. Lacrosse @ Towson 12 PM
W. Lacrosse vs George Mason 1 PM
M. Basketball vs Washington 1 PM
W. Basketball vs Washington 3 PM

WEDNESDAY
W. Lacrosse vs Mount St. Mary's 4 PM

New home for Hopkins Lax: The Cordish Lacrosse Center



Hopkins plans to break ground on a state-of-the-art home to the men's and women's lacrosse programs in April. The Cordish Lacrosse Center will be completed in 2012 on the east end of Homewood field.

COURTESY OF JHU SPORTS INFORMATION OFFICE

Jays to host Centennial playoffs

By CLAY RISCHÉ
Staff Writer

The women's basketball team brought back another win this weekend. They faced Ursinus in a game that gave the Jays a guaranteed first-place finish in the conference for the regular season. The final score of the game was 72-48, another dominant game in favor of Hopkins.

The Jays grabbed a sizeable lead roughly ten minutes into the first half and never let go. Ursinus was down 37-19 at the half and never got closer than 14 points for the remainder of the game.

Senior Lyndsay Burton was named Centennial Conference player of the week, recording a double-double with ten points and ten rebounds in the first half alone. She has been named player of the week twice this season.

The game remained tight for the first seven minutes of play. Ursinus led 8-6 until junior Stephanie Fong hit a three-point shot to take the lead.

Not long after, Hopkins kicked their game into gear, staying just ahead of the Bears until scoring 11 unanswered points and boosting their lead to 24-11. At one point near the end of the first half, the Jays were up by a 19 point margin before finishing the first 20 minutes 37-19.

Hopkins has been working on getting a strong first half of play in recent games, and it truly showed in this outing.

"I would say that in the last few games we have gotten off to some good starts — hitting some big shots early, getting stops on defense and gaining a lead," Burton said. "I think getting those early leads can put the opposing team in a difficult situation sometimes. Everyone has been playing well and stepping up in the last few weeks and many different people have contributed a lot."

Burton led the charge in the first half, out-rebounding much of the Ursinus lineup singlehandedly. The second half had a little bit of a different flavor, with even more teamwork on the part of Hopkins, with many girls coming off the bench and putting up points.

Out of 12 active players, 11 of them put up at least two points.

During the second half, the Jays allowed Ursinus to gain back a small amount of ground before asserting their dominance throughout the remaining minutes. The tempo of the game was by and large controlled by players like junior Chantel Mattiola and Stephanie Fong. Junior Kat Fox also contributed a large number of minutes, along with freshman Fatu Conteh.

The Bears's leading scorer, Lindsay Teuber had to deal with a quick and persistent Fatu, who stuck to Teuber like glue.

"Everyone had something they contributed, whether it was points, rebounds or steals," said Conteh. "It exemplified who we are as a team: unselfish."

Conteh managed eight points when she came off the bench, and she was accompanied by sophomore Sarah Higbee, who put up six points and grabbed seven rebounds.

Another sophomore, Alex Vassila, put up 13 points on the night, the team high.

It was a great outing for the defense, only allowing a total of 48 points from Ursinus. The win was a bit of revenge for the Jays, who lost to the Bears earlier this season in overtime. The final score was a decisive 72-48 victory, clinching first-place for Hopkins in the regular season.

The women quickly followed up their Saturday win with another victory on Wednesday against Franklin & Marshall. The Jays won with a final score of 63-57.

The game was tight, with F&M hanging just behind the Jays in the second half. With ten minutes left in the game, the score was 35-33. The Diplomats and Hopkins both played great defense for the majority of the game, holding each other to a low score and making critical plays towards the end of the game.

What won it for Hopkins was increased pressure and level-headedness in the final minutes.

"We stepped up our defense at the end of the game when we really needed it," said senior Siobhan Callanan. "This shows that we can play a close game and still come up with a big win."

Lyndsay Burton came up big again with 18 points. A key three-pointer from Chantel Mattiola also kept the Jays' hold on the game coming into the final minutes. Like Saturday's game against Ursinus, it was a team win made from the grit of strong defense and heads-up offensive plays. Wednesday's win was a strong finish for the season and a good lead-in for the playoffs.

"Clinching first in the conference was exciting, but we knew all along it was something we could accomplish. It's definitely exciting to be hosting the [conference] tournament because we'll have a lot of fans and a home court advantage," said Conteh.

This is the first time the women's team has held the top seed in the conference playoffs since the 2003-2004 season. Things are going to keep rolling for the ladies, and as freshman Fatu Conteh said, "This season is far from over."

The ladies enter the playoffs 17-3 in conference with a 20-3 overall record on the regular season.

The Jays will begin the playoffs at home this year at a date and time to be announced.

Men and women's track and field enter JHU record books

By CLAYTON RISCHÉ
Staff Writer

Men's and women's track had a great outing at the Boston University Valentine's Invitational this past weekend. The men's team managed to break four school records while the women's team reached a conference-best time in the distance medley relay. The meet resulted in several season-best times or marks.

Junior Luke Sand beat Hopkin's record for shot put, with a 48 foot, 6.25 inch toss for ninth place. Senior Ryan Lino finished 20th with a 44 foot, 3.25 inch throw.

Rob Martin, a sophomore runner, placed 80th overall with a season-best time of 50.65 seconds on the 400-meter run. Don't be fooled by his placement; it is a top time in our conference. Senior Brahma Kumar also ran a great time at 51.07 seconds in the 400.

The freshmen also produced great times. Alex Jebb broke a school record on the triple jump (his own record), reaching 44 feet 6.75 inches. Brendan Evans wasn't far behind him with a

jump of 42 feet, 9 inches.

Rob Martin hit a good time in the 200-meter run, notching up a 23.04 second dash. Freshman Tobe Madu ran a 23.23 second time, followed by Brendan Evans at 23.34 and Kumar at 23.35. Each time was a season best for the athletes.

Senior Elliot Wehner ran a studly time, breaking his own school record with a time of 1:54.95 on the 800 meters. Sophomore Ben Press also ran, getting 1:58.12, while freshman Steve Hyland was right behind him, running a 1:58.29.

The 4x400 resulted in a time just off the school record, with Madu, Kumar, Hyland and Martin grabbing a time of 3:24.31. Senior Brandon Hahn got a top time in the 300-meters, running 8:48.15 to rank in the top five in school history for the 3000.

The women nabbed 13th in the distance medley relay with a time of 12:19.04. The event was led by sophomore Annie Monagle, who ran the 1200-meter portion of the race in 3:44. She was followed by junior Alison Smith, who ran the 400-meter leg of the race in 59 seconds. A freshman, Maggie Shel-

ton, followed her in the 800-meter portion — running the distance in 2:19. Lara Shegoski finished out the race with a time of 5:14 in the 1600 meter run. It was the fastest time of the year for JHU. "The girls showed some of the performances we have ever had in Boston. The DMR line-up was not clear until the day of but, everyone was really motivated to run and we had a great performance from all four girls," said senior runner Anita Mikkilineni.

Junior Cecilia Furlong suffered an unfortunate injury during the 5K-run, fracturing a bone in her foot. She is a great distance runner for the Jays and has served as a hinge-pin for much of their success in distance events. She will surely be missed.



FILE PHOTO

Women's track had two outstanding meets this week.

Jays beat by Mid's 121-111 for 2nd loss of season

By AMY KLIVANS
Staff Writer

In their final regular season meet of the year, the men's swim team narrowly lost to Navy 121-111. The meet was only the second loss of the Blue Jay's season, with the fifth ranked Division III Blue Jays pitted against the 24th ranked Division I military academy.

Used to swimming against Division I teams, the meet served to further display the strength of Hopkins' line-up.

"Although we didn't win the meet, it was fun to show them what Hopkins' swimming is all about," said junior Patrick Lynch.

Now 6-2 on the season, the Blue Jays will swim next at the 2011 Bluegrass Mountain Conference Championships February 16-19th in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The meet at Annapolis consisted of eleven scored events, with five exhibition races that were not factored into the final

SEE SWIMMING, PAGE B10

Lady laxers defeat AMR in final scrimmage

By TREVOR WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team used the final weekend of their preseason to scrimmage against American University at Homewood Field this past weekend, a final effort of preparation before they begin their season this Saturday at home against George Mason.

Coming off a season that saw the Jays fall a bit short of their goals, mustering a 10-7 record

and a third-place finish in the American Lacrosse Conference, just missing an NCAA tournament appearance, Hopkins will enter the regular season as a consensus top-30 ranked team, mentioned as high as 19th in one poll. The Jays expect to bounce back from woes and inconsistencies they faced last season in order to reposition the women's lacrosse program among the nation's finest.

With the regular season opening just a week away, the focus

heading into the scrimmage was far less about toying and tinkering with offensive and defensive schemes, but rather to assess the Jays's athleticism and skills in their first contest since scrimmaging George Mason last October.

"We wanted to get an idea of our level of speed and fitness against another team," said head coach Janine Tucker. "[I wanted to see] how much our girls understood our ride [last year] and how well we would be able to execute our offenses and defense."

The dress rehearsal was deemed an overall success, with sophomore defender/midfielder Courtney Schweizer confirming the team's success in the scrimmage.

"I think we played really well as a team and we all worked together, and in doing so, came out

SEE W. LACROSSE, PAGE B11



EDDIE WANG/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Women's lacrosse hopes to cruise through their demanding schedule this season.



FILE PHOTO

Freshman guard Fatu Conteh played a critical role in each of Hopkins' this week.

INSIDE

Men's Lacrosse: Scrimmage with Cornell

Hopkins hosted a scrimmage against top ten Cornell at 9 am on Homewood field in order to prepare for the two opening games of the season this week.

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Athlete of the Week: Anthony Lordi

Freshman standout swimmer Anthony Lordi has placed in the top ten of dozen of different events and has a chance to qualify for the Olympic time trials.

Page B11

NFL Lockout: The good, the bad and the ugly

The NFL team owners and the NFL Players Association have a collective bargaining agreement that's set to expire in March and could result in an NFL lockout.

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